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Trawlers hijacked

DHAKA, (Kuwait): Indian naval gunboat allegedly hijacked three Bangladeshi fishing trawlers with 40 crew members from Bangladesh territorial waters on Sunday morning local press reports said.

Malik dies

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Former Lebanese Foreign Minister Charles Malik, a one-time ambassador to Washington, died yesterday after a long illness, medical sources said. He was 81.

Iraq denies

NICOSIA, (Reuters): Iran said yesterday its coastal batteries shelled and set on fire a large Iraqi munition ship in the northern Gulf but Iraq denied the report.

US advisers

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The Defense Department, reacting to a Soviet report that at least one US military adviser had been killed in Afghanistan, said yesterday United States had no military advisers there.

(See Page 2)

Brazil floods

RIO DE JANEIRO, (AP): Torrential rains caused floods and landslides in eastern central Brazil, leaving at least 11 people dead and more than 1,500 homeless, civil defence authorities said.

UN session

TUNIS, (Reuters): The Arab League and PLO may seek a new UN Security Council session to examine the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a PLO spokesman said.

Turkish refugees
ATHENS, (AP): Three Turkish political refugees and three Greeks were charged with killing a robbery victim and committing multiple thefts around Greece, a spokesman for the Athens district attorney's office said.

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آج کے اکاروں صفحات میں

ٹیکنیکل ایجنٹ پاکستان کے بارے میں
بادشاہی ایمنی اور اسلامیت اور ایجادیت کے
میانے اسے ایجادیت کے
اوپر ایجادیت کے

WEATHER

CLOUDY weather continues with moderate northwesterly wind, may freshen at times and clouds will appear.

State of sea: moderate to rough. High water: 6.30 am, 7.00 pm. Low water: 12.30 am, 12.30 pm. Sunrise: 4.58 am.

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 15°C 61°F
Ahmad: 15°C 59°F
Falkirk: 15°C 59°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Falkirk: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 77 per cent
Ahmad: 58 per cent
Falkirk: 80 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 75 per cent
Ahmad: 79 per cent
Falkirk: 80 per cent

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 4°C 39°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Falkirk: 8°C 46°F

ARAB TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1987 JAMADI AL-AWWAL 8, 1408 AH

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Joint security strategy approved

GCC will send envoy to Tehran for talks on war

EXCLUSIVE

From Arab Times correspondent in Riyadh

THE GCC states will send a high-ranking envoy to Tehran very shortly to hold talks with Iranian officials to bring the Gulf war to an end on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution No. 598 in order to stop the bloodshed between the two Muslim countries.

It says, despite the efforts of GCC states to end the war and avoid its expansion, Arab Gulf states felt responsibility towards protecting its security, independence and holy places.

It reiterates that the GCC goals are clear for achieving lasting peace in the region, and if achieved, it would bring about good relations between GCC states and Iran, based on good neighbourly relations, mutual respect and Islamic and historical values.

The GCC leaders endorsed a recommendation for further consolidation of joint defence measures and for building of a joint defence force to serve as a shield to protect the GCC's accomplishments so far.

Measures

It calls for firm steps and wise measures to deal with the existing dangers and to carry out the responsibilities shouldered by the GCC states.

Regarding oil, the GCC leaders endorsed the oil lending system between member states. They reiterated their support for OPEC and oil prices.

They also approved a programme for implementing the GCC joint economic agreement and other related activities, which included adding more professions to already approved ones that GCC citizens could practise freely in any member state.

They also issued a number of economic measures to be enforced by the GCC financial and economic cooperation committee.

But a military spokesman said: "We know nothing about this subject. I read it in the paper like you did."



King Fahd of Saudi Arabia (second left) inaugurates the new headquarters of the GCC secretariat in Riyadh in the presence of other Gulf leaders. HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, is second from right. (Reuter radiophoto).

Egypt denies plan to form Arab force

CAIRO, Dec 28, (UPI): A military spokesman today denied knowledge of an alleged plan, involving Egypt and other Arab states, to establish a joint military force for intervention in the Gulf.

The opposition newspaper Al Wafd said the 30,000-man force would be used for "confronting any Iranian attack on the member-states of the GCC and also for supporting Iraqi forces" in the Gulf.

The newspaper said the force, to be called the "Arab Defence System," would be made up of Egypt and unnamed Arab states as well as Saudi Arabia.

Information Minister Saad Al Sherif said the tour will include Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman as well as Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak will hold talks with his brothers, the leaders of those states, "Sherif said, pointing out the tour was at their invitation.

Diplomatic sources said the Iraq-Iran war and the fear it may spill over to the moderate Arab Gulf states was certain to top the agenda of Mubarak's talks in the six countries.

With the exception of Oman that did not break off relations with Egypt, the other member-states of the GCC reopened ties with Cairo last month.

Poll results

KTV 2 stinks: a viewer

THE results of the Arab Times TV Opinion Poll show that Kuwait Television, Channel 2, has totally failed to provide what the national audience expects of it.

Some of the pronounced criticisms were against KTV 2's inability to provide announcements in English, inclusion of local sports matches at the expense of scheduled programmes, poor coverage of world news, showing programmes at their whim and fancy and profusion of documentaries.

One viewer said: "Amateurish, violent, badly produced and edited: bad English."

Said another: "An insult to our intelligence."

"KTV 2 ... it stinks," was another comment.

"Generally very poor and presented even more poorly," said still another viewer.

Waste

The "many interruptions" to show sport programmes came under fire from a majority of viewers who want KTV 2 to "stick to the schedule." "... Too many documentaries," said another.

One of the most succinct

comments came from a Kuwaiti who wrote: "Stop putting films on acts and flies." Another called for KTV 2 presentation to be in English with subtitles in Arabic. Another Kuwaiti said KTV 2 was poorly organised.

Said one: "It is a waste of time and money."

Most viewers were sceptical of expressing their views because they feel KTV 2 would, as always, ignore the pleas for improving content and presentation.

To fulfil the need to show local sports programmes, viewers have suggested the setting up of a separate sports channel, devoted to world and local sports. They have also appealed for "less violence" and "more music and comedies."

They are asking KTV 2 to show the latest movies and serials instead of broadcasting rejected American movies. British documentaries and unsuccessful TV serials.

We have a strong suspicion that such poor shows are bought to save money. If KTV 2 is spending, they should buy the best and not waste funds on cheap stuff.

(For full report turn to Events, Page 5).

Ali Nasser's death sentence ratified

ADEN, Dec 28, (Reuters): South Yemen ratified yesterday death sentences on former President Ali Nasser Mohammed and 11 supporters convicted of high treason, the Aden news agency reported.

But death sentences on a former Interior Minister, Mohammad Abdulla Abbatan, and 24 others were commuted to 15 years.

The agency said the higher presidential council made the decisions at a meeting chaired by President Haider Abubaker Al Attas.

Ali Nasser Mohammed and thousands of supporters fled to North Yemen after he was ousted in bloody street fighting between party factions in January last year.

Only five of the people now under sentence of death are being held in South Yemen. They were convicted after a mass trial of 108 people, 64 of them in custody, on charges including high treason, terrorism and sabotage.

Dollar plunges

LONDON, Dec 28, (UPI): The US dollar plunged to record lows in Frankfurt, Zurich, Tokyo and Amsterdam today despite massive intervention by central banks to halt the collapse. Gold and silver rose. (See page 10)

Police disperse Dhaka protesters

DHAKA, Dec 28, (Reuters): Police used rifle butts and truncheons to disperse hundreds of opposition demonstrators in the Bangladeshi capital today.

Witnesses said helmeted riot police attacked the demonstrators outside the Dhaka office of the main opposition party, the Awami League.

An unspecified number of activists were injured in the

twilight street battle between stone-throwing demonstrators and police, press photographers at the scene said.

Twenty-one opposition parties have organised a strike for tomorrow, their latest bid to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad by a campaign of strikes and demonstrations.

Police said they were prepared to beat off any attempt by the

(Continued on Page 2)

US spy satellite locates Waite

LONDON, Dec 28, (UPI): An American spy satellite positioned over Lebanon photographed British hostage Terry Waite being moved by his kidnappers to a medieval prison in West Beirut, the Sunday Express reported.

The Sunday Express, citing National Security Agency sources in the United States, said the American Lacrosse spy satellite tracked the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy as his captors moved him to Busta prison. The paper said Waite was moved together with a number of other foreign hostages.

"Confirming details of the switch, a highly placed NSA official said that the latest



Waite

ARAB TIMES

Bumper Bingo

MISS Muhi Sirajuddin has won the First Full House prize of KD 100. Game No. 62 continues for the Second and Third Full Houses

INTERNATIONAL

UK teacher sentenced to death

RANGOON, Dec 28. (AP): A Burmese court today convicted a British teacher and his Burmese cook of murdering the teacher's wife and sentenced both to death.

Thomas Andrew Kirkpatrick, 38, of Suffolk, wept as the Insein township court passed judgment.

The court said Kirkpatrick's cook, 42-year-old Saw William, carried out the Briton's request to kill Lynn Kirkpatrick and set fire to her body. Her remains were found in the couple's home in a wealthy Rangoon suburb.

Saw William had stated that he suffocated Mrs Kirkpatrick with a pillow and set her body and the bedroom afire at Kirkpatrick's request because Mrs Kirkpatrick was interfering in her husband's affair with a British woman.

However, he later retracted the statement and said it had been made under police coercion.

The woman, identified only as "Miss Helen," testified that she did have an affair with Kirkpatrick. The woman, an English teacher at the foreign language institute in Rangoon, has returned to England.

Mrs Kirkpatrick, a Malaysian-born British citizen, died only two weeks after she and the couple's child arrived in Rangoon to join Kirkpatrick, who taught English at Rangoon's institute of education.

Afghan rebels deny Khost siege broken

ISLAMABAD, Dec 28. (AP): Afghan rebels have refuted the Kabul government claims to have reopened the strategic road leading to the northeastern city of Khost, where Afghan forces are besieged by guerrillas.

The guerrillas said Soviet paratroopers who had landed in Khost four days ago are trapped there along with 20,000 Afghan troops.

Meanwhile, the official Soviet news agency Tass quoted an Afghan official as saying that an American adviser had been killed in fighting in the Khost area.

The road runs 115 kilometres from the provincial capital of Gardez to Khost on the Pakistani border.

"We inform our compatriots that the security of the road from Gardez to Khost has been ensured. The road is open for normal traffic," Kabul Radio quoted Minister of Tribes and Nationalities Solayman Laeq as saying last night.

The people of the Zadran region, through which the road runs, had refused to enter discussions with the government about reopening the road last month.

"After all these peaceful measures by the local authorities using local means, steps were

taken to ensure peace in the Zadran region," Laeq said. He did not elaborate.

Guerrilla official Abdul Rahim denied the radio report and said the guerrillas were becoming more organised and were resisting well.

He said up to 1,500 Soviet paratroopers were trapped in Khost after landing there four days ago and that heavy fighting was raging in Sata Kandao to the north and in Marjan Dukan to the south.

Calls for a withdrawal of Soviet troops that entered Afghanistan Dec 27, 1979, were echoed in the United States, India, Pakistan, Japan, Germany and Britain Sunday, but Moscow was silent over what has become popularly called the Soviet Union's Vietnam war.

Occupation

In the Iranian city of Isfahan, several Afghans were injured and arrested Sunday when they stormed the Soviet consulate, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said. Moscow lodged an official protest of the assault in which several security personnel were hurt and claimed the consulate was damaged.

Agency Afghan Press said guerrillas carried out raids throughout Afghanistan and cut power lines in Kabul.

President Reagan called on

Moscow to "end once and for all its brutal occupation."

Reagan assailed the Soviet invasion as "an unprovoked and blatant affront to both human decency and international law" and declared "the Afghan people will not be conquered."

Washington backs the Afghan guerrillas with millions of dollars in military aid.

"Afghanistan is (an) important test of Soviet good faith," British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said. "We in the European Economic Community and the rest of the world look to the Soviet Union to withdraw all their troops in 1988 according to an agreed timetable. Only this can end the misery of Afghanistan."

"The Soviet leadership can be happy the war crimes laws they helped draft at Nuremberg won't be applied to them," said Juergen Todenhoefer, a political ally of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and visitor to Afghanistan in 1980 and 1984.

"Mikhail Gorbachev talks a lot about peace, but even under Gorbachev, Afghanistan is a hell," he said.

Agency Afghan Press said guerrillas carried out raids throughout Afghanistan and cut power lines in Kabul.

Iranian bomber executed

NICOSIA, Dec 28. (AP): An Iranian convicted of planting bombs in Tehran and spying for Iraq was publicly executed yesterday on a street, site of a 1985 explosion, Tehran Radio said.

The death sentence was carried out in the afternoon in Tehran's Hashemi Avenue, the scene of an explosion two years ago, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. It did not disclose how he was executed.

Ali Baba Moradi, a native of Marivan, western Iran, was tried by the Islamic revolutionary court in Tehran, which found him "guilty of planting bombs in Tehran which killed many people."

He has been accused of "membership of a bombing network affiliated with the intelligence organisation of the Iraqi regime, transporting of bombs and explosives from Iraq to Iran, and helping to set off bombs during the Tasua ceremonies in 1985 as well as in other parts of Tehran which killed many people."

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A man in Little Rock, Arkansas, trying to retrieve some possessions from his house using a boat. (Reuters radiophoto)

Snowstorm kills 13 in US Midwest

NEW YORK, Dec 28. (AP): A slow-moving storm blamed for at least 13 deaths buried the Midwest with snow today as it headed east after snarling holiday traffic and keeping thousands of Arkansas and Tennessee residents from flood-ravaged homes.

The storm dumped up to 76 centimetres of snow Sunday on the Western Plains, shutting Denver's airport for the first time since 1983 and closing interstate highways in Wyoming, Oklahoma and Colorado.

"There's mud all over everywhere, they're getting cars towed, fences are down," said Ruby Smith of Millington. "People can't go back to their houses. A lot of people lost everything. So it's a bad sight down here in some parts."

The weather service discontinued a flood watch for Western Tennessee as the sky cleared Sunday, signaling the end of the flooding that began Christmas Day.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton issued his second disaster declaration in as many weeks and asked President Ronald Reagan to do likewise. West Memphis was hit by a tornado Dec 14 that killed six people and caused \$35 million damage.

Three Tennessee motorists died in the flooding. The storm was blamed for at least 10 other traffic deaths on ice-covered highways in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Death toll rises to 30

Sri Lankan police deny killing civilians

COLOMBO, Dec 28. (Reuters): Police today denied charges that they deliberately killed civilians in a violence-filled weekend in the east of the island which left 30 people dead.

A local journalist said he saw at least 20 shops, motorcycles and bicycles destroyed by fire.

"There was blood all over the place. It was carnage," the journalist, who declined to be identified.

"We were under the impression that the peace would continue for many more days. But it was not to be," the Roman Catholic priest said.

Church leaders had appealed for a Christmas truce between Tamil rebels and Indian peacekeeping forces. Police said there were no serious incidents on Christmas Day and Saturday.

Up to 35,000 Indian troops have been sent to the north and east of the country to implement a July peace accord aimed at ending a four-year-old minority Tamil rebellion for a separate state.

The soldiers have been trying to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful separatist group, who repudiated the accord.

State radio reported today that Indian troops killed 14 Tigers and captured 120 more in the north and east during the past 24 hours.

Bingo Day 14
27 53 65 57

Palestinian government-in-exile

PLO testing world opinion

ABU DHABI, Dec 28. (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is testing world opinion on its setting up a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said in an interview published in Al Ittihad newspaper today.

"What matters now is world response, whether in Europe, Latin America, Canada or in the Arab, Islamic, and African countries," PLO leader Yasser Arafat's political adviser, Hani Al Hassan, said in the interview he gave in Cairo.

Hani said a special committee on the proposal was exploring possible reactions to the idea and he had raised the issue with some European states during a nine-day tour. He did not name them or say what their reactions were.

Arafat established the PLO committee to consider forming a government-in-exile in the wake of riots in Israeli-occupied territories this month in which at least 22 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more were wounded.

ded or arrested.

"We are now convinced that circumstances have become ripe to set up a government-in-exile," Hassan said.

"We are optimistic ... we have taken into account all possibilities including non-recognition by some countries, especially the United States," he said. "We do not hinge any hope on the US."

Response

Hassan said he discussed the idea with Arab ambassadors in Cairo and with Egyptian officials and added: "Egypt's response was positive."

Al Ittihad said Hassan had flown to Riyadh where the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Arab leaders are meeting. It did not say if he went specifically to sound out opinion on the government-in-exile idea.

It was quoted as saying anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had proved that "there is a Palestinian

GCC will send envoy to Tehran for talks on war

(Continued from Page 1)

The communiqué praised the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and hailed the resistance of the Palestinian people to the Israeli terrorism. It called upon the world to stand by and support the struggle of the Palestinians.

It called on the Lebanese people to achieve unity and brotherhood.

The communiqué expresses GCC's total support for the struggle of the Afghan Mujahideen and asked the Soviet Union to respond to international calls and withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. It supported UN efforts to bring about a solution that would ensure the return of all Afghan refugees to their homeland, non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, preservation of its Islamic identity, and Soviet-Afghan relations based on mutual respect.

Warned

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, said that the results of the summit would strengthen cooperation between GCC states in the military, security and economic fields.

He warned that caution must be used to face the possible dangers faced by all.

He stressed Kuwait is alert to what is going on around it, and added that Kuwait is adhering to its well known principles and would never deviate from them.

He said that all security agencies in the country were intensifying their efforts against terrorists and criminals, whoever they were.

Police disperse Dhaka protesters

(Continued from Page 1)

for new elections," a joint committee of the 21 opposition parties said in a statement today.

Ershad, trying to weather the worst crisis in his nearly six years in power, has said he will not step down under pressure.

Despite current protests, Ershad seems to enjoy wide support from the rural people who credit him with being able to feed the country's 107 million people despite disastrous floods and the persistent political turmoil.

"Maybe he has many lapses and shortcomings," he still deserves thanks for averting a widely predicted famine," a rural-council chairman said today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian Patriarch

VATICAN CITY, Dec 28. (Reuters): Pope John Paul has named a Palestinian born in Nazareth, Michel Sahbah, as Latin (Roman Catholic) Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Vatican said today.

An official statement said Sahbah, 54, would replace Italian Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, 77, who was retiring due to his age.

The announcement came a week after the Pope called for peace in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Forest fire

BEIJING, Dec 28. (AP): A series of forest fires caused heavy damage in mountainous areas of east China's Anhui province, the Liberation daily newspaper reported.

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KUWAIT . . . GULF

Sheikh Nasser stresses information security

No one will be allowed to fish in troubled waters

THE Minister of Information Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed yesterday stressed that the "information security" forms an important base of the state's information policy.

Speaking to a number of citizens and journalists at his newly identified as "citizen day", the minister said the Kuwaiti government, under the guidance of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, do not allow anyone to damage interests of the state.

Sheikh Nasser said the government will not allow anyone to "fish in troubled waters" not to touch on the country's security.

The minister hailed the Gulf Cooperation Council states' cooperation in the information field, noting that Kuwait has participated in Bahrain's National Day celebrations within the framework of the two countries' joint information agreement.

The minister, in the meantime, welcomed cooperation between the six GCC member states on their national occasions.

Fund raising

In response to a question Sheikh Nasser said, newspapers will not advertise any fund raising announcement from any quarters unless it carries the written approval of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Speaking on the French programmes in both radio and

television Sheikh Nasser said those programmes are broadcast in the two TV channels and on the radio's European programme. He added that other foreign movies and programmes including German, Italian and Russian, also have time in Kuwait Television.

The minister said in response to a question that French programmes will not be included in the January session of the TV because of some problems with the French producers that "we hope to be solved soon".

French newspaper

Issuing a French newspaper is a business matter, the minister said, noting that the French newspaper can be seen in Kuwait three days a week.

Sheikh Nasser welcomed Kuwaiti Ambassador to India, Ali Al Ansari who was present at the citizen day meeting yesterday. Al Ansari is an artist as well as a diplomat.

Al Ansari composed a symphony that was broadcast to Kuwait TV last year. Sheikh Nasser in this respect hoped that Al Ansari would compose another one to be added to the Kuwaiti art library.

Encyclopaedia

Radio Kuwait will broadcast as of January first and for an estimated period of five years the entire content of the theology (Fiqh) encyclopaedia which was compiled and published by the State of Kuwait recently.

The broadcast of some 4,000 theology idioms printed in 25 chapters in the encyclopaedia will cover all walks of life in the Muslims in both their private and public activities, Sheikh Nasser said.

In his announcement yesterday, Sheikh Nasser hoped that the service would convey the invaluable knowledge contained in this priceless book to the rank and file of Muslims.

The behaviour of the individual in his daily life should be derived from the true interpretation of the Holy Quran and the Sunna of the Prophet (PBUH) so that he does not fall victim to the superstitions and lies and safeguards himself from diverse trends, the minister said.

Glant

Sheikh Nasser said that the theology broadcast and the publication of the Islamic encyclopaedia are both great projects undertaken by the State of Kuwait in pursuance of the deep convictions of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier of their duty toward the Islamic nation.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has been the pioneer in meeting the Islamic need by publishing the Islamic encyclopaedia which has come to be recognised as an authority worldwide, the minister said, hoping that the theology service will render yet a greater service to Muslims.



● Kuwait's Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday hosted a dinner party at the Kuwait Towers in honour of the Austrian Interior Minister, Karl Blecha. He is seen with the guest of honour during the party.

IICA opens Charity Week in Jahra governorate

THE International Islamic Charity Authority opened its Charity Week in the Jahra governorate on Sunday under the patronage of Jahra Governor Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Naser.

Yousef Al Hajji, chairman of the authority, said in his opening speech that the authority was established to support the poor, the sick, orphans and victims of disaster and hunger in Islamic countries and communities. He added that statistics show that several Islamic countries suffer from poverty, poor health and inadequate educational facilities, with illiteracy reaching as high as 90 in some of these

countries. He explained further that the annual income of individuals to these poverty-stricken countries was about \$100 and the amount spent on medical care per person was estimated to be about one dollar per person annually.

Al Hajji said that the authority is working to collect \$1 billion from Muslims throughout the world to help in training projects which would improve job opportunities for Muslim workers.

Refugees

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Social Reform Society opened its Charity Week for Afghan Mujahideen and refugees to mark the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Abdulla Al Mutawa, the chairman of the society, speaking at the opening said that the invasion was one of the worst colonisation attacks since the Second World War and that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan aimed at destroying Islam

and Muslims throughout the world.

He added that Muslims in various places throughout the world are facing attacks and attempts to destroy them because the West and the East know that Islam threatens their imperialistic and colonial ambitions. He said that they understand that Islam is a fair system which exposes their false principles and ambitions.

Security gate

Professor Burbul Deen Rabban, the representative of the Afghan Mujahideen and the leader of the Afghanistan Islamic Society, expressed his appreciation to the society for organising the Charity Week and for giving attention to the Afghan problem.

He said that Afghanistan is a "security gate" for the whole Islamic world and Arab Gulf in particular.

A photography exhibition is part of the activities planned for the Charity Week.

Anti-smoking Health Day

A SPECIAL committee set up by Kuwait's Health Ministry to plan International Health Day, 1988, celebrated last week and agreed to have an International Anti-smoking Health Day to be celebrated on April 7, 1988.

The committee will work with the women's and cooperative societies in their anti-smoking campaigns and a contest will be organised for the occasion. The committee also agreed to have slogans which would be printed on envelopes and letters by the Ministry of Communications.

Telex revenue increases

KAMAL Al Zubair, the controller of Kuwait's international telegrams and telex account at the Ministry of Communications, said that the ministry collected KD7 million in 1980 for telex services and KD8.5 million in 1985. He explained that the increase was because of the improved economic situation in the country and the civil war in Lebanon. He added that the Iraq-Iran war and the Manakh crisis have contributed to lack of more growth.

Al Zubair said that the ministry has 32 direct telex lines and 19 direct telegram lines.

Reagan-Assad summit planned

A US proposal will be carried soon to Damascus by US Assistant Secretary of State for Mideast Affairs Richard Murphy to see into the possibility of holding a summit between the two countries' presidents, a diplomatic source in Beirut was quoted as saying yesterday.

The source told a Kuwaiti daily that certain obstacles obstruct a meeting between Presidents Reagan and Hafez Assad in either Washington or Damascus.

Because of these problems, the paper noted, the US suggests holding such a summit in Vienna or any other neutral city, similar to what took place between ex-US President Jimmy Carter and Assad in the late 70s.

The source expected President Assad to go along with the US motion simply because Vice-President George Bush is the frontrunner in the fall race to the White House, and that if he wins no change will come upon the current US policy.

Shaheen receives Indian envoy

INDIA'S Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha, yesterday met the Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, Sulaiman Al Shaheen.

Their conversation included the latest developments in the Gulf.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Nepal on his country's National Day.

Deputy Amiri audiences

HH the Deputy Amir, Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received at his office the Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and the Public Works Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Houti.

Sheikh Saad received Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mohammed Abul Hassan.

Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens of the public diwan.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

UAE proposal supported

KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam yesterday supported a proposal by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan that a delegation of heads of Gulf states go to Tehran to negotiate an end to the Gulf war.

"The idea is logical and we have not tried it," the paper said in a front page editorial.

It described the proposal as an integrated plan, which could solve many problems of the region.

President Zayed made the proposal in an interview published Saturday in the Saudi newspaper.

The paper pointed out that the most important thing in the interview was that Sheikh Zayed held the big powers responsible for the crisis in the Gulf region and Middle East.



● M M Ramachandran of Atlas Jewellery is seen presenting a plaque to the secretary of Moods and Melody orchestra, Radhakrishnan (left), in appreciation of the orchestra's performance at Maldan Hawalli Labour Union Hall recently.

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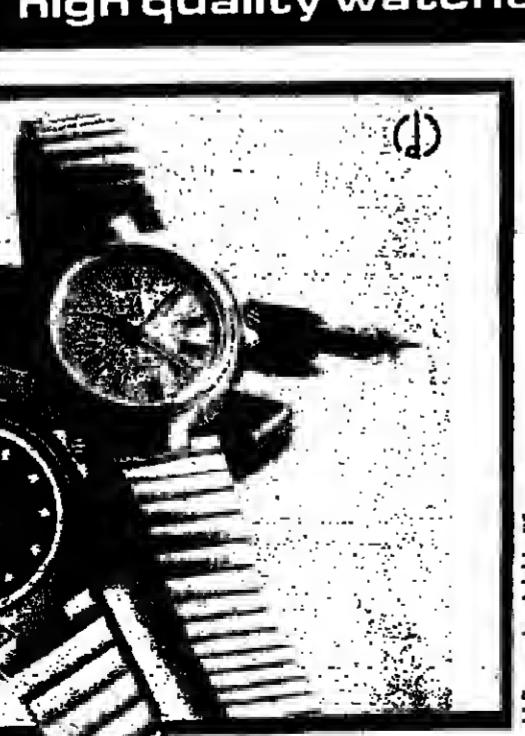
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Mixed reaction to ministry's interference in cooperatives

KUWAIT'S Social Affairs and Labour Ministry recently appointed members to the councils of four cooperative societies, and this action had some supporters and dissenters.

The chairman of Salmiya Cooperative Society, Badr Saif Abed, told a local newspaper that he was against the ministry's action and the ministry did not have the right to interfere with appointments without cause, though it could interfere if the administration was bad or dishonest was discovered. He said that such appointments were at random without considering any standards. If members are appointed then they should be residents of the area.

The deputy chairman of Daiya Cooperative Society Khalifa Abdulla Al Fadala, said the action was a two-edged weapon.

The director general of Khal-

ya Cooperative Society, Abdulla Nasser Al Saed, approved of appointing members, but only at badly organised societies. He said that societies had many problems and the appointments could have a good or bad effect. He said that the ministry should be careful to select well qualified people for appointment. The ministry had a complete file on cooperative problems and was able to deal with them. The decision will solve mistakes and problems at some societies. He said that officials at cooperatives were sensitive about the appointments.

A shareholder of Salmiya Cooperative Society, Ali Salem, said the decision was good for some societies but not for the Salmiya Society because it was administered well.

The director general of Khal-

University budget discussed

KUWAIT University's Board of Directors held a meeting recently under the chairmanship of the Education Minister and University Chancellor Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri during which they discussed the draft budget for the 1988-1989 fiscal year and closing accounts for the 1986-1987 fiscal year.

The board agreed to a proposal submitted by the Faculty of Science to grant the Mathematics Department three academic degrees.

The board also agreed to the promotions of Dr Basel Al Naqib and Dr Homammed Mustafa to professors and Dr Sam Sadeq, Dr Maher Marzouk and Dr Yaqoub Maqdesi to associate professors.

NHA plans to reduce waiting time



The office staff receiving citizens

THE head of the public service office at the National Housing Authority (NHA), Ahmad Al Daqabs, said yesterday that the office will post employees in remote areas such as Jahra and Dahrain to facilitate completion of application forms.

He said the NHA had adopted modern methods to reduce the waiting time for completing applications.

The NHA was one of the first government establishments to implement the Civil Service Council's decision on setting up

public service offices. Citizens visiting the NHA will be received by special staff to help them in their affairs.

Al Daqabs said the office will place special boxes at cooperative societies to receive complaints and suggestions from citizens.

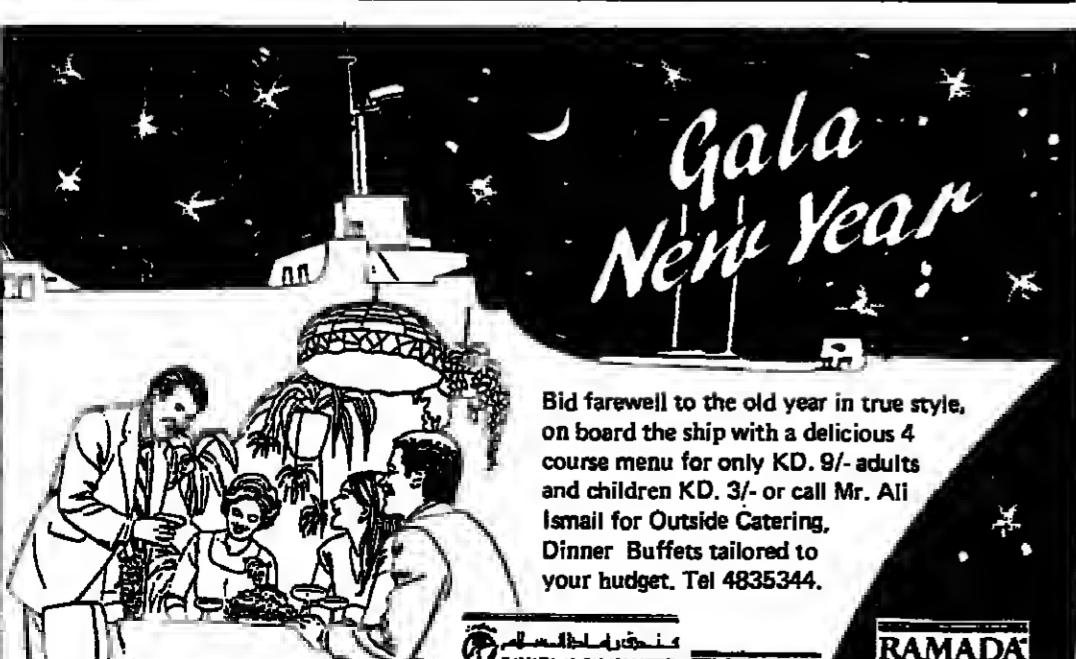
The office also organises open day meeting with the State Minister for Housing Affairs for citizens.

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RAMADA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS THE SHIP



HH the Amir is seen with King Fahd (left) and Sultan Qaboos (right) during side meetings at the Riyadh summit.



HH the Amir in a room of the new embassy building, with (from left): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa and Finance Minister Jasem Al Khorafi.

Tunisian team discusses technical cooperation

A MEETING between the delegation representing the Tunisian Electricity and Gas Company and a number of officials of the Ministry of Electricity and Water was held yesterday.

An official source of the ministry told Kuna that discussions at the meeting dealt with aspects of technical cooperation and ways of developing relations in that

sector.

The Tunisian delegation then left Kuwait after a few days visit to Kuwait during which a meeting was held with Minister of Electricity and Water Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai.

The delegation toured a number of ministry establishments and got acquainted with the work progress there.

Child molester trapped

A FIVE-YEAR old child helped the police to trap an alleged child molester who had earlier invited the child to visit his flat with friends, promising they would have fun and a good time.

The child immediately went to the local police station and reported the proposition he had received, a local newspaper said.

The station commander decided to lay a trap for the suspect with the help of the child and told the child to go with the man while the police kept watch.

The man came to the rendezvous and took the children to

his flat where a friend was waiting.

The police raided the flat shortly after the man and children entered, and arrested the man and his friend.

During the criminal court hearing, the man said he did not invite the child, but the child had propositioned him and that the friend was a new acquaintance.

The court found the man guilty but decided not to sentence him because of his clean record, a belief that he would lead a straight life and out of regard for his family.

The friend was acquitted.

Estimated telephone service revenue

ACCORDING to an official at Kuwait's Communications Ministry the ministry's revenue for October, 1987 totalled KD7.8 million and the total revenue for the fiscal year 1986-1987 from telephone service was estimated at KD67 million.

Seyassah newspaper reported that the ministry depends primarily on cutting telephone services as a means to collect overdue bills from subscribers.

The ministry source said that there were 3,000 judgments issued in favour of the ministry on overdue accounts.

Fingerprinting in evenings to discontinue

THE number of people coming for fingerprinting in the evenings had fallen considerably, according to an official at the fingerprinting department.

He said that fingerprinting in the evening would therefore be discontinued.

People would be received during the morning at the department and at the personal identification department at Hawalli and Ahmadi and also at the Public Authority for Civil Information at Hawalli.

He said people should present a copy of their civil identification card to facilitate re-registration of their fingerprints.

Cheese fit for consumption

ABU DHABI, Dec 28, (Kuna): The authorities said today the local markets are completely free of hazardous contaminated French and Swiss brands of cheese.

Citing the results of laboratory tests, the federal secretariat of UAE municipalities said all brands of cheese on market shelves in the country were fit for human consumption.

Greek envoy

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houfi yesterday received at his office newly appointed Greek Ambassador to Kuwait.

The discussions between the two officials tackled means of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Fly-over contract

KUWAIT'S Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houfi signed a KD 12,299,000 contract with a local company to construct a two level fly-over above Al Istiqlal highway and the First Ring road intersection.

The duration of the project is 1,250 days.

INDIAN tourist officials in Kuwait hosted a dinner-reception on Sunday to say goodbye to the old year and herald in the new year. Travel agents, airline officials and those who promoted India as a tourist resort were invited to a 'thank you' reception by the Indian Tourist Office (ITO), Kuwait.

They also reviewed progress made in the West Asian travel

A framework for security cooperation

RIYADH, Dec 28, (GNA): The Undersecretary of the Saudi Interior Ministry, Dr Ibrahim Al Awaji, said that the security strategy approved by the GCC leaders at the summit forms the basis of GCC security cooperation.

He told Al Riyadh newspaper that the security cooperation was progressing and was taking several forms, the most important of which was that this strategy would be an essential framework for security cooperation and all its aspects.

The security strategy embodies the presence of a

New premises of Kuwaiti embassy in Riyadh opened

THE new premises of Kuwait's embassy in Riyadh was opened yesterday under the patronage of HH the Amir.

The ceremony was attended by the delegation accompanying the Amir and by local media men.

The Amir was received at the new building by Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abdul Rahman Al Bakr, members of Kuwait's diplomatic mission in Riyadh and a number of Kuwaiti citizens, including students.

Al Bakr told the Seyassah newspaper reporters that it was a great honour that the Amir should attend the opening ceremony and expressed gratitude to the Amir for his fatherly concern and generous support.

He also thanked the Custodian of the two Holy Shrines, King Fahd, for his attention to members of the diplomatic corps.

Gray meets Sheikh Hamad

MANAMA, Dec 28, (AP): US Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Albert Gray arrived today and met Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Gulf news agency reported.

The Crown Prince is commander of Bahrain's Defence Force. The military's Chief of Staff, Gen. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting, the agency reported.

The US Navy spokesman in the Gulf was aboard a ship and unreachable for details on Gray's visit.

The commandant is expected to visit Marines involved in the American Navy escort activities in the Gulf. The Marines are administered under the department of the Navy.

American warships are in the Gulf region to protect US flag shipping from attacks related to the Iran-Iraq war.

Pakistan deeply distressed

THE Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mohammed Khan Junejo, has said that the government and people of Pakistan were deeply distressed and outraged at the repression and terror against unarmed Palestinians unleashed by Israeli forces in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Security Council has rightly denounced Israel's brutal measures, and Pakistan urged determined follow-up action to ensure Israel's observance of the council's decisions.

He said that Pakistan will continue to collaborate with all fair-minded countries, especially Islamic ones, in support of the Palestinian struggle for the realisation of justice and peace.

Fatah meeting

ABU DHABI, Dec 28, (Kuna): Daily Al Ittihad newspaper said today that the Fatah Central Committee will hold an important meeting in Tunis Wednesday to set a date and place for the movement's next congress to be convened early next year.

The daily quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the meeting, to be presided over by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, will also review the uprising at the occupied territories, relations with Syria and the status of some PLO offices in a number of Arab states.

Indian Tourist Office hosts reception



Yugoslav embassy Second Secretary S. Jarachevich (left), A.N. Chaturvedi (second left), Air India Manager, P.R. Kanga (second right) and Indian embassy Counsellor, Aish Singh (right) seen at the reception.

market. The ITO, based in Kuwait, looks after the tourist markets in nearly all countries in the Arab and Gulf region.

Said ITO's Regional Director A.N. Chaturvedi: "Though tourist traffic rose only slightly, we see this is an enlargement of our market base." India, though a sought after destination in Saudi Arabia, is still to attract a larger number of Kuwaitis. This year,

tourist traffic from Kuwait to India rose by about 30 per cent. Some 4401 people travelled in January. The number was 3,755 in August this year.

A special guest at the reception was Anil Bhandari of the Hotel Corporation of India, which owns the Centaur chain of hotels. Bhandari presented a slide show to acquaint travel agents with the facilities on offer.

EVENTS

RESULTS OF ARAB TIMES OPINION POLL

KTV 2 is terrible: viewer's verdict

AFTER a lot of work we are announcing the results of our poll about KTV 2, although KTV 2 will be far from pleased with what readers have to say about their programmes.

Before analysing the survey let us say a few words about the way we looked at the results. All replies were divided up by nationality so that we could see how different nationalities responded to the programmes. In fact, there was a remarkable sense of agreement between every nationality except one — the Filipinos. Everybody else, Kuwaitis, Arabs, Pakistanis, British, Indians, Americans, Europeans, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans, all agree that KTV 2 is terrible.

This devastating result shows that KTV 2 has failed totally to provide the viewers with what they want to see. With such a multi-national audience one would expect that some viewers would be happy, others unhappy, for nearly everyone to agree that KTV 2 is so bad is a shocking indictment of KTV 2's incompetence and betrays the total lack of awareness of their audience.

We received a total of 388 replies from the following nationalities:

Indians	165
British	44
Americans	42
Filipinos	37
Europeans	32
Pakistanis	29
Kuwaitis	16
Arabs	13
Bangladeshis	5
Sri Lankans	5

Comments

Many of the viewer's comments cannot be printed in a family newspaper, but the general message was plain enough. Everybody seems to hate the local sports programmes. Volleyball, basketball and local football matches are very unpopular with every nationality and age group. Viewers aged 7 to 65 participated in the poll.

Another common complaint was the lack of announcements in English. We estimate there are well over a quarter of a million English speakers who do not know Arabic, and they would all like to know what is going on.

The news came in for some harsh criticism too: "An insult to our intelligence," "Not enough international news," "Caters to morons," these were just a few of the comments we received.

Stick to scheduled timings

Children's television was condemned as being far too limited. Given the superb range of children's programmes shown in the West, why does KTV continue to show endless cartoons? Why do they keep replacing children's shows with last minute local sports events? Parents want more educational shows for their kids and many of them are so angry at the rubbish that KTV puts out that they said refuse to let their children watch.

Teenagers are also unhappy since they feel that there are no programmes for them whatsoever. Chart Attack, which was taken off some months ago, is the second most popular show KTV 2 has ever shown. Documentaries and animal shows are very unpopular too, not in themselves, it seems, but simply because there are too many of them. Sometimes it seems there are more shows about sharks than humans!

Timing

Another complaint was about the timings of KTV 2. Last minute changes make viewers very angry. "Stick to the scheduled timings," said one, another added. "Volleyball, basketball and local football should be on Channel One." "Sports are dreadful," said one angry



Falcon Crest: the most viewed show on KTV 2. Above: The Channings.



No more films on 'ants and flies', please.



Sledgehammer: among top 10 favourites

Fair 171
Poor 108
We didn't dare ask what you think about the old ones.

Question Seven: "Do you enjoy local sports matches televised on KTV 2?"

Yes 60

No 323

'Stop putting films on ants and flies'

Quite a few of you added remarks to underline just how strongly you feel about this issue, interestingly enough, even the Kuwaitis voted 10 to six against local sport on KTV 2.

Question Eight: "Would you like to see more local programmes?"

Yes 109

No 280

Poor old "Weekend", again, over a quarter of their supporters were Filipinos, even the Kuwaitis voted three to one against any more local shows!

Please bear in mind that some people didn't answer all of the questions, so the figures do not always add up to the same total. We've seen that the vast majority of you do not have a high opinion of KTV 2.

To improve KTV 2 several people suggested that a separate sports channel be set up so that the local sports programmes wouldn't interfere with regular viewing.

Plea

Another idea put forward by many people was that there was far too much violence on television, perhaps that's why so many people want to see more comedy and music. A lot of you complained that children's programmes are on far too late, though I'm not sure if KTV actually know which shows are for children since they put the Wizard of Elm Street on after the News when it is clearly aimed at seven-year-olds.

Question Five: "In comparison with other Gulf English stations how would you rate KTV 2?"

Better 35

Same 104

Worse 249

A terrible criticism of KTV, made worse by the fact that of the 35 who voted that it was better, no less than 17 came from the Filipino community. "No Kuwaiti" said that it was better.

Question Six: "KTV has recently appointed new newscasters. How would you rate them?"

Excellent 15

Good 91

None of the Kuwaitis thought it was excellent!

viewer. "Stop showing sports during kids' TV time," said another.

Old films are unpopular. "Too many old movies" one wrote ... an idea which many people repeated. "Too many documentaries" was a common complaint. Perhaps the overall bitterness is best expressed by these comments:

"KTV 2 stinks!"
"Even Saudi TV is better!"

"KTV puts out the worst programmes in the world!"

"The present winter programmes are lousy!"

"Badly conceived, presented and produced, a travesty of TV viewing, pathetic!"

"Too much American junk!"

One of the most succinct comments came from a Kuwaiti who wrote: "Stop putting films on ants and flies at peak viewing time!" The sad thing is that we have a horrible suspicion that nothing will be done to take note of your comments and complaints. KTV seems to ignore all criticism, quite happy to go its own way with the attitude that "if you don't like what we do, don't watch." This arrogance is unacceptable in a modern society. People here work very hard, and for most of them TV is the main form of relaxation, so viewers are doubly disappointed and angry when the standards are so patently low.

Now let's look at the actual results of the poll.

Local sports unpopular

Question 1: We asked you to list your 10 favourite programmes in 1987, and although there was some difference in taste between nationalities, two clear favourites emerged with every group: Falcon Crest and Chart Attack. One or other of these topped every nationality's poll except for the Americans, who loved "L.A. Law," the British, who love "Open All Hours" and the Arabs whose favourite programme is the "Bill Cosby Show." Here are the top ten favourites:

1) Falcon Crest 173
2) Chart Attack 133
3) Moonlighting 86
4) The Cosby Show 76
5) Dempsey & Makepeace 70
6) Sledgehammer 69
7) Hitchcock Presents 61
8) Growing Pains 59
9) Miami Vice 58

Here the Filipinos really distorted the result since eight of them said KTV 2 is excellent, but only seven agree from all of the others put together.

None of the Kuwaitis thought it was excellent!

Viewers say there are too many sports shows on KTV 2

Question 2: We asked you to list your 10 favourite programmes in 1987, and although there was some difference in taste between nationalities, two clear favourites emerged with every group: Falcon Crest and Chart Attack. One or other of these topped every nationality's poll except for the Americans, who loved "L.A. Law," the British, who love "Open All Hours" and the Arabs whose favourite programme is the "Bill Cosby Show." Here are the top ten favourites:

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DEATH is a very dull, dreary affair, and my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).



Rajiv: hard time

Who is afraid of Brizola? Everyone

By Peter Muellor

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil. (AP) A popular lapelet button in Rio reads, "Who's afraid of Brizola?"

The answer could include members of the armed forces, bankers, businessmen, rich people, the middle class, the right and left.

But his critics and supporters agree that Leonel Brizola, an old-style populist and state governor often called the "Caudillo," or strongman, is a strong contender to succeed President Jose Sarney in elections that could be held next year.

Brizola's importance has grown in recent months as economic and political troubles have mounted for Sarney, who in 1985 became Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years. Congress is now rewriting the constitution and has indicated it may force elections next year, in which Sarney would be ineligible to succeed himself.

"He [Brizola] is the great spectre of the election," the *Jornal do Brasil* said in a recent profile of presidential contenders. All the other parties and candidates are working on how to defeat Brizola, the newspaper said.

Speculation

Conservative Rep Guilherme Afif Domingos said: "His candidacy is one feared by various sectors. Frankly, because of Brizola, many people want to postpone the elections."

There is even speculation that if Brizola is elected, the conservative armed forces would stage a coup to topple him.

The concern might seem excessive for this 63-year-old self-styled socialist, who holds no elective office and whose party, the small Democratic Labor Party, was hurt by losses in last year's national elections and by the defection of prominent members.

"Those worries are exaggerated. I try to conduct myself correctly. The armed forces had an exemplary role in Brazil's transition to democratic rule. I want their support," Brizola said in an interview.

The left is afraid of Brizola, fearing he may take votes away from more ideologically based leftist parties — including the socialist and communist parties. Leftists don't trust what they see

as Brizola's cult of personality and willingness to make political deals.

There is little question that Brizola by himself is a political force, using personal charm and brilliant oratory to appeal directly to the working man. In many ways he recalls his mentor, the former populist President and dictator Getulio Vargas.

He attacks the right and the left — and makes alliances with both. He is thought to be anathema to the military, but meets regularly with ex-president Gen. Joao Figueiredo. He condemns US "imperialism" but says he admires the American people.

Voters love him or hate him but rarely are indifferent. A recent newspaper poll showed Brizola led a field of presidential hopefuls with 8.5 per cent of those polled, more than twice the number of the second-place finisher.

But at the same time he received the highest negative rating — 48 percent of those interviewed said they wouldn't vote for him under any circumstances.

The poll listed 14 candidates who received from 0.6 per cent of the votes to Brizola's 8.5 percent. Just over 63 per cent of those interviewed were undecided.

The other top candidates include Orestes Quercia, governor of Sao Paulo, Brazil's richest and most populous state. Rep. Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the ruling Democratic Movement Party, and Dilson Fumaro, former finance minister and creator of the Cruzado plan, a failed anti-inflation programme.

Some critics say Brizola's rhetoric will scare off foreign investment and loans, and that favours the poor slum-dwellers — and slum-based underworld bosses — at the expense of the middle class.

"Brizola makes people edgy because he has no obligations to the right nor to the left," said former Rio de Janeiro Mayor Marcelo Alencar of the Democratic Labour Party, of which Brizola is president.

Brizola entered politics at a young age. The son of farm workers in the far southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, he left home at 12 and went the state capital of Porto Alegre, where he eventually earned an engineering degree and was elected assemblyman, congressman and governor.

"Those worries are exaggerated. I try to conduct myself correctly. The armed forces had an exemplary role in Brazil's transition to democratic rule. I want their support," Brizola said in an interview.

The left is afraid of Brizola, fearing he may take votes away from more ideologically based leftist parties — including the socialist and communist parties. Leftists don't trust what they see

Leaving the scene in East Europe

By David Lewis

VIENNA, (Reuter) Western diplomats are speculating that Gustav Husak, who quit as Czechoslovak Communist Party leader, may be followed into decline by other East European leaders almost a generation older than Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

The question is, will there by a "domino effect" after the resignation of the first East European leader to relinquish power voluntarily?

One diplomat in Warsaw said he believed the Soviet Union had been pressing for the older leaders like Husak, Hungary's Janos Kadar and East Germany's Erich Honecker to leave the scene since Gorbachev came to power.

"It's clear from the beginning that Gorbachev regards them as belonging to a quite different political era and as people with whom he is not quite comfortable," the diplomat said.

"My conclusion is that the new Soviet leadership decided how to manage all this some time ago and the process of change has been set in hand."

A diplomat in Sofia said it was quite justified to speculate about a domino effect, adding: "It had to start somewhere. How far it will go, we don't know."

In Hungary, there have long been rumours that 75-year-old Kadar — installed in power after Soviet tanks crushed an anti-communist rising in 1956 — could step down before the next party congress in 1990.

"I think it will add to pressure already building here for the old man to go," one senior Western diplomat said from Budapest. "This might indeed add fuel to that tendency."

In Bulgaria, 76-year-old Todor Zhivkov has been in power for nearly 34 years. "He's

kept to a winning formula: keep right in with Moscow but get as good as a deal as possible for the people," was the verdict of one Western diplomat in Sofia.

Zhvivkov has embraced Soviet-style reforms, though the movement seems to have receded in recent months after a time when he appeared to be "out-Gorbachev-ing" Gorbachev.

"He is a very fit, healthy and lively man. A domino theory would be unlikely here," said another Sofia diplomat.

Zhvivkov seems to be firmly in the saddle," said a third. But he noted that personnel changes could be made at a special party congress called for Jan 28.

East Germany has been led by Erich Honecker, now 75, since 1971. The Warsaw diplomat said Gorbachev has pressed him to resign but that Honecker had refused.

Robust

In East Berlin, a Western diplomat said:

"Honecker is in pretty robust health and his position within the Politburo seems very strong. That is not to say things cannot change rapidly, but we see no sign of it at the moment."

Romania under Nicolae Ceausescu, 70 next month, won sympathy in the West in the 1960s and 1970s for showing resistance to political domination by the Soviet Union.

Said the Budapest diplomat: "There's a good chance that another domino might roll in Romania."

Poland, under Wojciech Jaruzelski who crushed the Solidarity labour movement, is a special case. At 64, he is the youngest Warsaw Pact leader apart from Gorbachev, and diplomats say he appears to enjoy the favour of the Soviet leader.



Rajiv: hard time

Scandals, controversies, turmoil... Indian Prime Minister in trouble

Rajiv loses 'Mr. Clean' image and learns hard lessons of politics



V. P. Singh: limelight

perception has lingered that he did not relentlessly pursue the offenders and played soft on his friends.

Rajiv also became embroiled in a running feud with then-President Zail Singh, who claimed that the prime minister failed to fulfil his constitutional duties and then lied about it to parliament.

"That accusation by the President dealt a serious blow to Rajiv's image," said Khushwant Singh.

Analysts said that by mid-1987, Rajiv appeared desperate, needing only one more scandal or electoral defeat to lose office.

Meanwhile, the century's worst drought shook the economy, and the middle class and businessmen were taken aback by some of Rajiv's moves as finance minister that echoed policies of his mother and retreated from his stated objectives of deregulation.

There is no proof linking Rajiv to any of the corruption, but a

peace accord Rajiv signed in

July 1985 with moderate Sikhs is now a dead letter and the government has opened new political initiatives to solve the problem.

At the same time, more than 800 people have died in extremist violence in the state this year.

"If Rajiv can speak to the Tamils, why can't he speak to the Sikh extremists," said Khushwant Singh, a noted Sikh historian and former member of Parliament.

But Rajiv's real test at managing the world's largest democracy came in a complex series of scandals that unfolded throughout the year.

The controversies began in January when then-Finance Minister V.P. Singh launched massive kickbacks in the 1985 purchase of a field artillery system, sparking opposition demands for Rajiv's resignation and stinging criticism in the press.

Amid reports that Singh's actions were unsettling some of

India's key powerbrokers, Rajiv took over the finance portfolio and abruptly transferred Singh to head the Defence Ministry.

Singh then started an inquiry into bribes paid in the purchase of four West German submarines. Congress (I) party members alleged Singh had moved only to enhance his position at Rajiv's expense.

The minister resigned and formed an opposition grouping with other dissident Congress (I) leaders who were dissatisfied with what they said was Rajiv's imperious style of leadership.

Borders

Next came revelations that Sweden's Bofors company paid massive kickbacks in the 1985 purchase of a field artillery system, raids against tax evaders and hired an American detective agency to investigate illegal foreign currency holdings of prominent Indians.

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policies of his mother and

retreated from his stated objectives of

deregulation.

Relaxed

Another weekly, *Moscow News*, has also frequently run a foul of the political leadership.

But the paper is published mainly in foreign languages and is largely inaccessible to Soviet readers. Sergei Zalygin, who is not a party member, became head of *Novy Mir* and Grigory Baklanov took over *Znamya*. And Vitaly Korotich was named editor of *Ogonyok*, a lowbrow and nearly moribund weekly.

Role

Novy Mir and *Znamya* have whom have had contacts with Ligachev. Both Rasputin and Astafyev have since become critical of the direction *perestroika* is taking.

The reaction of other conserva-

tive writers has been virulent. One, Peter Proskurnik, has called publication of the works of long-dead writers "necrophilia." His comments were published in the Communist Party daily *Pravda*. More than a dozen such evenings have been held in Moscow, Leningrad, and smaller cities. They have also been organised for the staff of the Moscow air defence command, the space-control centre, and the Foreign Ministry.

Relaxed

At times it has infuriated the leadership. Ligachev, for example, has criticised it several times, and for a brief period this year the armed forces reportedly cancelled their subscriptions.

Ogonyok's "outreach evenings" — meetings between the paper's writers and the public — have produced some of the most lively political discussion ever seen in the Soviet Union. More than a dozen such evenings have been held in Moscow, Leningrad, and smaller cities. They have also been organised for the staff of the Moscow air defence command, the space-control centre, and the Foreign Ministry.

Relaxed

The nomination of new editors to these three journals was "the most significant achievement of *perestroika* so far," says Yuri Arakcheev, a prominent writer. Sergei Zalygin, who is not a party member, became head of *Novy Mir*. Grigory Baklanov took over *Znamya*. And Vitaly Korotich was named editor of *Ogonyok*, a lowbrow and nearly moribund weekly.

Role

Novy Mir and *Znamya* have between them changed the face of contemporary Russian literature. Among the works published for the first time this year are Andrei Platonov's "The Foundation Pit," written in 1930 and suppressed here ever since (*Novy Mir*, June), and Mikhail Bulgakov's "Heart of a Dog," written in 1925 (*Znamya*, June). Next year, Yevgeny Zamiatin's devastating attack on totalitarianism, "We," is scheduled to be published by *Znamya*. Written in 1921, it is described in Soviet reference works as an expression of hostility toward socialism. *Novy Mir* has announced the publication of Boris Pasternak's "Doctor Zhivago." It has also published a series of major works by living writers like Mr. Pristavkin, Mr. Arakcheev, and Andrei Bitov.

Ogonyok's role has been unique. *Novy Mir* and *Znamya* have circulations of 495,000 and 280,000, respectively. *Ogonyok*, with a 1.5 million circulation, has been in the forefront of discussing *Stalin*. It has carried some of the most striking — and grim — reporting on the Soviets' war in Afghanistan.

The Christian Science Monitor

Mafia is still a dangerous force in Italy

By Barry Moody

PALERMO, Sicily (Reuters) — The Italian state has scored its most devastating victory against the Mafia by jailing more than 300 gangsters, but magistrates and police say the criminal society is still a dangerous force with a revamped leadership.

A Palermo court has handed down 19 life sentences on Sicilian mobsters, including seven members of the Mafia's ruling "commission," and sentenced 19 others to a total of 2,700 years in jail.

Italian newspapers spoke euphemistically of the "decapitation" of the criminal society. But the Mafia quickly and arrogantly showed it was not spent force with a coldly efficient killing only hours after the verdict.

Signal

Police said Antonino Ciulla, 35, was shot nine times by three or four professional hit-men as he stepped out of a car carrying a box of cakes for a celebration of his acquittal at the mass trial. He had been released from jail just over an hour before.

Some reports suggested

Ciulla's killing signalled the start

of a new Mafia "war of suc-

cession" after the jailing of several top leaders. But some inves-

tigators argued against this, saying Ciulla belonged to a Mafia clan believed to be in decline.

The recent verdict was by far the most severe legal blow ever against the Mafia.

Among those jailed for life was "boss of bosses" Michele "the Pope" Greco, 63, whom top informer Tommaso Buscetta and investigators identified as the head of the "commission."

Several other big bosses and some of the Mafia's most feared killers were also jailed for life but eight of them are still on the run.

Magistrates and police warned that the trial was not a final victory and said the Mafia was far from beaten.

Top anti-Mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone, who "confessed" Buscetta, told reporters: "We should not fool ourselves

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economic climate stormy in 1987, outlook cloudy for 1988

Stock markets around the world still reeling

NEW YORK. Dec 28. (AP) A big, black-question mark hung over the world economy as 1987 ended, with stock markets around the world still reeling from the October crash on Wall Street.

Could this be a rerun of the October 1929 crash — the forerunner of a worldwide great depression like the 1930s?

Economists noted some similarities, particularly pressures for trade protectionism. After stocks fell in 1929, nations raised trade barriers in an effort to protect themselves.

But the actual state of world business in late 1987 showed no sign of irreparable damage despite the stock market crash. The United States, with foreign help, let the dollar slide toward year's end, hoping to ease the US trade deficit. But expressing the views of many nations, Hans Tietmeyer, a state secretary in West Germany's Finance Ministry, warned it is "extremely dangerous to believe that world economic imbalances can be evened out by letting the dollar swing down too far."

A year-end look at financial developments around the world:

The United States

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, a vigorous free trade advocate, promised to veto any protectionist US trade legislation. But even Reagan was taking trade reprisals against Japan, US budget and trade deficits and other problems such as an oil market that remained depressed despite a partial recovery from its 1986 plunge.

Crash

Many world stock markets appeared to be ending the year above their level on Jan 1, 1987, even after the October crash.

In 1987 major western banks wrote off billions of dollars of their Third World loans and posted lower earnings, but no big banks went under.

European and Asian leaders pledged closer cooperation with the United States in an effort to ease trade tensions and control currencies. And in contrast to the 1930s, when half of American banks failed, Duff and Phelps Inc., a Chicago-based financial consulting firm, predicted that US banks profits in 1988 will grow despite the Oct 19 stock market collapse.

Indeed, the crash may have been a blessing in disguise, said former US Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker, by forcing policymakers to address long-range economic problems such as US budget and trade deficits.

Given proper policies and international cooperation, Volcker said, "there is no reason that the economy can't go on and expand, that inflation be held in

check and that we could have an extended period of growth."

The United States, with foreign help, let the dollar slide toward year's end, hoping to ease the US trade deficit. But expressing the views of many nations, Hans Tietmeyer, a state secretary in West Germany's Finance Ministry, warned it is "extremely dangerous to believe that world economic imbalances can be evened out by letting the dollar swing down too far."

West Europe

The major West European economies grew more steadily in 1987 than in 1986. The falling dollar flattened exports, while spurring imports.

According to DRI Europe, a private forecasting firm in London, West Germany's economy grew by 1.4 per cent in 1987 vs. 2.4 per cent in 1986; France's by 1.8 per cent vs. 2.0 per cent; Britain's by 3.8 per cent vs. 3.1 per cent; and Italy's by 2.2 per cent vs. 2.8 per cent.

The average European inflation rate climbed over 3 per cent because of rebounding oil prices, and unemployment rates remained in double digits.

Britain held centre stage again in 1987 with the fastest growth. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's tight-fisted spending policies also resulted in a negligible budget deficit, making her country a model of fiscal prudence.

Italy claimed to have overtaken Britain as the non-communist world's fifth-richest country in 1987, but there was concern at year's end that inflation was rising. Italian exports took a battering from increased labour costs and the fall of the other currencies.

Even so, the trade gap remained stubbornly agape at \$157 billion and even widened toward year-end. Economists feared a repetition in coming years of another feature of the 1930s depression — a succession of competitive devaluations, with each country trying to grab a bigger slice of the shrinking world trade pie.

Survey

A survey released in December by an American firm, the Decision Research Corp., found that 25 per cent of Americans believe the United States is very likely to encounter another economic depression.

The survey said continuing instability in the nation's financial system has led to a loss of confidence in the nation's financial system.

Asia

Asia's economic picture in 1987 was dominated by the Japanese yen's climb against the dollar, which fuelled changes ranging from record jobless rates in Japan to soaring exports from the newly industrialised Asian countries.

Japan began to change from an export-reliant economy to one marked by growing domestic demand. Total export volume was down 2 per cent in the first three quarters of 1987, while imports were 17.3 per cent higher.

The yen's rise curbed the competitiveness of Japanese goods overseas and hit exporters with lower profits, production and investment. Unemployment reached a record 3.2 per cent in May. Economic growth was projected at 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1987, which ends next March.

Growth estimates for Asia's newly industrialised "little dragons" — South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore — ranged from Singapore's 7 per cent to 11-12 per cent for the remaining three.

Malaysia and the Philippines complained about US discrimination against their exports of palm and coconut oils. The United States also drastically curtailed imports of sugar, a major export of the Philippines and other Asian nations.

Latin America

Countries in Latin America, who are responsible for a large portion of the Third World's debt of more than \$1 trillion complained anew in 1987 that they can never pay their foreign loans if a rising tide of protectionism in the industrial countries keeps their export goods out of world markets.

The 12-nation European Economic Community failed at a December meeting in Copenhagen to settle a farm spending dispute and entered 1988 with a full-blown budget crisis — widely considered the most serious in the EEC's 30-year history.

But the basic problem

remained: a net outflow of money to pay interest on debts rather than the inflow of capital they needed.

Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, the Third World's three biggest debtors, now owe a total of more than \$260 billion, and formed a group of debtor nations known as G3.

"Latin America is the only region in the world with visible setbacks. Other continents continued to progress; we have not advanced," said Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Eight Latin American presidents met in Acapulco to discuss their common problems in late November, and called on international lending agencies to loosen their purse strings and limit interest rates.

In 1987, Africa saw the prices of its commodities, such as cocoa and coffee, and the value of its currencies continue an unrelenting slide while its debt grew.

At year's end, the 50 members of the Organisation of African Unity held an emergency summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the continent's collective debt of \$200 billion.

Most African states spent 40 per cent of their export earnings just to pay the interest on loans. Some nations, especially in West Africa, attempted to strengthen their economies by privatisation of some firms previously owned by the state.

The OAU conference cobbled together a plan it hoped to sell to creditors, proposing an international conference on African debt sometime in 1988.

"Nobody in the developed countries wants to see African children starve because we have to pay debts," said Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the OAU chairman.

The South African economy was hard hit by international economic sanctions imposed because of the white minority government's racially discriminatory policy of apartheid. Coal exports dropped by 20 per cent and 10,000 black miners lost

their jobs as result. Exports of steel, textiles and foodstuffs also slumped.

Middle East

In the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and the after-effects of the sharp 1986 drop in oil prices continued to send ripples through the region's economies this year.

After falling below \$10 a barrel in 1986, oil prices rose to around \$18 in 1987 after members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on production cuts.

But revenues remained far lower than in the early 1980s because of the lower oil production. In Saudi Arabia up to one million foreigners lost their jobs. Countries such as Egypt and Jordan, heavily dependent on remittances from their nationals working in oil-rich Arab nations, also suffered.

Communist world

In the Soviet Union, Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev was busy trying to shift the Soviet Union from an overly centralised system of management to a more democratic economic system in which local producers have greater authority.

Gorbachev's most dramatic break with Marxist orthodoxy was a law allowing Soviet citizens to establish small private businesses. The Soviet Union also showed greater interest in joint ventures with Western firms. Soviet national income increased by 6.5 per cent to about 700 billion yen (\$5.51 billion) in fiscal 1988, which starts April 1. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Defence Agency director general Tsutomu Kawara agreed on the level of defence spending in the government's fiscal 1988 budget, said the ministry official.

The budget is to be presented for approval at a cabinet meeting on Monday and in the Diet, Japan's parliament, early next year, said the ministry official.

Last Wednesday, the Finance Ministry proposed a fiscal 1988 draft budget totalling 56.7 trillion yen (\$44.6 billion), up 4.8 per cent from a year earlier. In the new budget, defence spending would comprise 1.013 per cent of Japan's estimated Gross National Product.

In fiscal 1987, Japan allocated 3.52 trillion yen (\$27.71 billion) for defence, up 5.2 per cent from fiscal 1986.

World Business Summary

Kremlin reforms help oil industry to beat '87 target

MOSCOW, Dec 28, (Reuters) Kremlin economic reforms have helped the Soviet oil industry beat 1987 output targets and end a period of stagnation which marked the early 1980s. Oil Minister Vasily Dinkov was quoted as saying today. He told Tass news agency that 1987 output by the world's biggest producer was roughly 624 million tonnes — which is the equivalent of about 12.5 million barrels daily and more than 20 per cent of total global production. The industry had exceeded a 1987 target of 617 million tonnes of oil and gas condensates, performing better than last year when output of 615 million tonnes fell short of a target of 616.7 million tonnes. The target for 1988 is 625 million tonnes.

Dinkov said bureaucracy was partly to blame for the earlier stagnation. This had been cut back and Soviet oilmen now enjoyed greater autonomy. Also, 91 per cent of oil industry employees were better paid as a result of the reforms and, from early 1988, all plants would transfer to a new system of self-financing.

Next year, 38 new deposits would be exploited commercially and 115 new wells drilled, Dinkov added. But he complained that two out of three oil-producing centres still failed to meet targets and geological prospecting in promising areas such as Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Soviet far east and offshore remained slow.

The Soviet Union earns most of its hard currency from fuel exports and suffered when world oil prices fell last year. Nevertheless, it promised in August 1986 to cut exports to the West to help shore up prices in a move seen by Western analysts as a symbolic gesture to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Moscow earlier this month published 1986 volume export figures for oil, a break with previous practice of reporting exports only in rough terms. The official monthly trade said petroleum exports reached 186.3 million tonnes in 1986 or 30 per cent of total production, compared with exports of 166.9 million in 1985.

Japan defence spending to increase by 5.2 pc

TOKYO, Dec 28, (AP) Japan will boost its defence spending by 5.2 per cent next fiscal year to about 3.7 trillion yen (\$29.13 billion), a Finance Ministry official said today. The ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said Japan will raise its spending to provide aid to developing countries by 6.5 per cent to about 700 billion yen (\$5.51 billion) in fiscal 1988, which starts April 1. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Defence Agency director general Tsutomu Kawara agreed on the level of defence spending in the government's fiscal 1988 budget, said the ministry official.

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Middle East Electricity '88

Stocks end year with gloomy forecast for early '88

Japan to cut imports of Iranian oil

TOKYO. Dec 28. (Reuter) Japan plans to slash the amount of oil it buys from Iran under long-term contracts after coming under heavy US pressure to join a full-scale embargo against the Gulf state, oil industry sources said today.

Acting under guidance from the powerful International Trade and Industry Ministry, Japanese refiners and traders have decided to reduce their daily purchases of Iranian oil by about 30 per cent from close to 300,000 barrels per day this year.

Pushing

The United States has been pushing Japan hard to join it in a full scale embargo on Iranian oil imports in a bid to convince Iran to accept a UN-sponsored ceasefire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

Although Tokyo has formally turned down the US request, the government has acted behind the scenes to ensure that Japanese industry does not step up its purchases of Iranian oil, if possible, reduces them.

The buyers have been glad to comply because heavy worldwide oil supplies have convinced them that prices are headed lower and that there is therefore no need to sign fixed contracts with Tehran.

Turkey plans to set up gold exchange

ISTANBUL. Dec 28. (Reuter) Flotation of the Turkish lira is now pencilled in for March and a gold exchange will be set up in Istanbul later, a senior Central Bank official said today.

Bankers said flotation of the lira, a major plank in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's strategy of liberalising markets had been tentatively planned for January 15 but had been delayed for further technical study and consultation with banks.

The gold exchange would be an over-the-counter market but details like import laws and foreign participation were being discussed, said the Central Bank official, who declined to be identified.

"We shall move from the system of continual adjustment of the currency rate to a system of free interest and free rates. In this term the convertibility of the lira will be realised," Ozal said in Friday's reading of the government programme.

Market crash leaves cloud of anxiety over US economy

WASHINGTON. Dec 28. (Reuter) The October 19 "Black Monday" stock market crash has aroused anxiety about the US economy but fears of recession eased as the last weeks of 1987 brought strong signs of continued growth.

"The coming year promises an environment at least as volatile as that in 1987," said Henry Kaufman, chief economist of Salomon Brothers Inc and a leading Wall Street forecaster.

"The element of crisis that pervaded world financial markets in October 1987 threatens to re-emerge in the coming year."

But Kaufman and many other economists anticipate modest expansion in US output of goods and services. Kaufman sees US gross national product expanding by about 2.7 per cent after inflation in 1988.

The Reagan administration, acknowledging that the market crash shook the economy, scaled

back its forecast for 1988 economic growth. It expects GNP to grow by 2.4 per cent instead of the 3.5 per cent predicted in August.

"This downward revision, which is in line with many private forecasts, recognises the likely negative impact on growth in 1988 of the recent stock market crash and the increase in interest rates and tightening of monetary policy during 1987," according to Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Resilience

But the post-crash economy has shown signs of unexpected resilience, suggesting that the momentum that was building up before investors lost billions of dollars of wealth when stock prices collapsed will keep it going.

GNP grew between July and September at a robust annual rate of 4.3 per cent and the growth rate for the first three

quarters has averaged an annual rate of 3.7 per cent.

"The economy was on a roll in the third quarter," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Bros. Inc. in New York.

"As of now, no full-f

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1987

In search of good yields with low risk

By Midas

NOW that 1987 is on its way out maybe it's time for a quick look in our crystal ball as to what is going to happen in 1988.

For goodness' sake don't bet your life's savings on the following predictions, I don't want to be run out of town if I get it wrong!

Before we go any further, a cautionary tale. You've probably heard of Sir James Goldsmith, the millionaire who sold everything he had back in August and so rode out the crash on a pile of cash, doubtless laughing all the while.

The classic reaction of such lucky folk is to start buying their way back in while everything is being sold at rock bottom prices. This is how the Kennedy fortune was built up after the 1929 Crash, and how the Rothschilds got rich after Waterloo.

Indeed, Sir Robert Maxwell, who also managed to get out of the market before the October debacle, is now using his cash hoard to take over everything in sight. Even the wise old birds at the Kuwait Investment Office are buying BP shares while they're cheap.

Shares

So what about Sir James Goldsmith? Is he sneakily buying his way back into the boardrooms of selected victims? Taking up huge blocks of shares in various corporations? Swooping down like a wolf on the fold?

The answer is No. Sir James has put the whole lot in the bank and has gone off to Mexico where he plans to build a humble shack with a library for his 50,000 books somewhere along the Pacific coast. He has announced that he has no plans to return for at least six months.

Does he know something that the rest of us don't? Has he gone off his solid gold rocker? Or has he just decided that with a few economies he should just be able to scrape by on his annual income of approximately \$10 million?

For the rest of us, what does 1988 hold in store? Let's start by looking at oil prices, always a useful indicator as to how the world economy is going to go. The recent Opec meeting decided to leave the price at \$18 a barrel and to leave production at just over 16 million barrels a day.

Price

Sounds fine, the snag is that the spot price is nearer \$15 a barrel and Opec production is actually nearer 18 million barrels a day. However, don't let this seeming disarray fool you into thinking that Opec is ineffective. Because independent analysts have estimated that if the organisation did not exist, the world price of oil would be nearer \$35 per barrel!

So if the oil price should slip in the coming year certain countries will find that their industries will benefit greatly. West Germany and Japan are obvious beneficiaries of any slump in oil prices. Even if the price manages to hold during the coming year, they will still have the advan-

tage of their stronger currencies. Since both the yen and the Deutschmark have strengthened considerably against the dollar and oil sales are priced in dollars they are already enjoying the benefits of substantially cheaper oil.

If the dollar price drops as well they will be dancing in the streets of Cologne and Kyushu.

Weaken

So if the oil price seems likely to weaken in 1988, what about gold? Over the past decade or so, the price of gold has often followed that of oil, when the oil price goes up, so does gold, but that situation seems to have changed.

The main reason for this is that the world's savers and investors no longer see the stock markets as totally safe.

Gold is the traditional haven in times of uncertainty and it seems more than likely that the price of gold will rise in 1988 as more and more people start to put just a part of their portfolios into precious metals.

Remember too that with the drop in the value of the dollar, gold at \$500 an ounce is still very cheap in either yen or Deutschmark terms. Personally, though, I can't see gold rocketing upwards like it did a few years back.

Lots of people lost a lot of money when it crashed back down again, and the memory is still painful. Rather I would expect to see gold drifting slightly higher month by month, with little spurts whenever the news is particularly frightening, or markets take a turn for the worse.

Increase

When will it end? I can imagine the price of gold to be about \$600 per ounce by the end of 1988. This isn't much of an increase, only 20 per cent, but there is a hidden factor, namely, the value of the dollar.

If the dollar keeps on sinking then even a price of \$600 per ounce begins to seem pretty weak, but if the dollar starts to recover again, then the \$600 gold price might well be buttressed by a healthy currency gain.

So what is in store for the dollar next year? There is one major factor which will become more and more important as the year goes on: the US election. At this point this seems quite unpredictable since there are too many candidates, too few policies, too much hype and not a single inspiring and courageous leader.

If one does not emerge in the coming months then the dollar could well keep on sinking since nobody in the US administration seems to have the guts to tell the people a few unpalatable truths about their overwhelming deficits.

Weak

Having said that, I think it's quite likely that in the short term the dollar will continue to be very weak, but will sooner or later recover. The reason is simple. The dollar is already a bit undervalued, if it sinks even further then sooner or later, people will start to see it as a bargain, funds will move in to take advantage

and then it will start to climb again.

When will this take place? Well, the dollar is currently around 126 yen, some experts have predicted a fall to as low as 100 yen, or even 80. That seems far too low, and if the dollar should fall as far as this then it will undoubtedly start to regain its strength.

I think that the dollar could well return to levels between 130 and 140 yen by the end of 1988, possibly even higher if the correction follows its usual course of overshooting.

Whenever the next election becomes clear then the dollar will begin to settle down as the world takes its measure of a new US administration.

The next factor to consider is interest rates which are still quite high in most countries. Germany and Japan excepted, although there again they have been bolstered by the appreciating value of those countries over the past couple of years.

Take London for instance, the people who own shares there include optimistic wealthy oil-rich Arabs, dour and gloomy industrialists, foxy get-rich-quick speculators, pension funds and so on.

Prices reflect the middle ground among all these competing, contrasting and conflicting groups.

year, the price of oil will weaken, gold will rise.

Naturally, all of the above is very tentative, any major political upheaval or natural disaster could change everything at a stroke. A devastating earthquake in Japan or California, another Chernobyl, a happy conclusion to the Iran-Iraq war, the death of a crucial leader, any one of these could radically change all of my predictions.

And so we come to the heart of the matter, the world's stock markets.

In reality, stock markets are the leading edge of world history, they deal not with the present, but the future as far as can be estimated, guessed or imagined. A market is really no more than a consensus of opinion.

Take London for instance, the people who own shares there include optimistic wealthy oil-rich Arabs, dour and gloomy industrialists, foxy get-rich-quick speculators, pension funds and so on.

Prices reflect the middle ground among all these competing, contrasting and conflicting groups.

Role

In the wake of the crash there seem to be even more diverse opinions as to what is going to happen next than ever before.

On one hand you have Sir James Goldsmith saying it's all going to the dogs, and Maxwell on the other buying everything he can lay his hands on, while others, bankrupted by the carnage of October are too busy trying to re-group their forces to take any role in the markets at all.

The main point seems to me to be a question of confidence. Looking back to the collapse of the gold price in the early seventies we can see that it takes an awful long time for investor confidence to be restored. The present rally in the markets is pretty shallow and I suspect that it is mainly geared towards making year-end figures look as healthy as possible. I think that in the New Year there is likely to be another price slump.

Agreement

However, there seem to be a lot of good news around, the recent INF agreement has lowered tensions, the oil price is no longer a problem, inflation is quite low. Will the markets simply ignore the good news while looking for bad news to feed its growing paranoia? Sadly, it seems all too likely. The US deficits have overshadowed all else for the past few months and will likely continue to do so.

And the small saver or investor for the foreseeable future, cash is king. A portion of one's portfolio in gold, some in bonds, some in a managed currency fund, these are reasonable alternatives, but the majority of one's holdings should be as liquid as possible. With a modicum of luck, 1988 will be a quiet year than the one we have just lived through, a period of economic convalescence if you like. The depression that everybody dreads might fade away into a mere slowdown. At least let's hope so.

Gain

The reason for this is that every government is on its guard against the danger and none of them will gain any lasting benefit from a rekindling of hyperinflation which caused so much trouble during the seventies.

So where does all this leave us? To re-cap: inflation will rise slightly, the dollar will be weak in the short term, but should recover when the world feels it has sunk too far, interest rates will drift slightly but may well rise again in the latter half of the coming year.

Conclusion

Having said that, I think it's quite likely that in the short term the dollar will continue to be very weak, but will sooner or later recover. The reason is simple. The dollar is already a bit undervalued, if it sinks even further then sooner or later, people will start to see it as a bargain, funds will move in to take advantage

of the opportunity.

Meanwhile, crude oil prices weaken slightly but trading activity was thin on international spot markets due to an official holiday in the UK and with many European traders extending their Christmas holidays.

Earlier this month, Opec agreed to roll over its 1987 accord in the first six months of 1988. This sets a production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq, and a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

The report said all Oman's crude is sold on 12-month contracts, with Japan taking 60 per cent of output and South Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan a further 30 per cent.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals confirmed a report in the Oman daily Observer newspaper that Oman would hold down production to support Opec's aim of containing a surplus of crude oil on world markets.

Four GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — are members of Opec while Bahrain and Qatar closely follow policies of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec agreed at a meeting in Vienna earlier this month to extend current production quotas totalling 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd), excluding Iraq, through the first half of next year and keep prices at \$18 a barrel.

The GCC began its eighth summit

on Saturday, dominated by security concerns arising from the Iran-Iraq war.

Oil industry sources say at least two

GCC members, Kuwait and the UAE, have been exceeding their output quotas, contributing to a surplus of oil that has depressed prices on Opec's efforts to stabilise oil prices.

Policy

In line with this policy, the government of Oman has decreased oil production until it has now reached 565,000 barrels per day, Shanfari was quoted as saying.

The report said Oman's oil output peaked at 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 1986 but was reduced in support of Opec. Of current production of 565,000 bpd, 515,000 bpd is export.

Oman is not a member of Opec, but

has co-operated with its drive to cut output and defend an \$18 per barrel benchmark.

The report quoted Oman's Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari as saying Muscat was committed to supporting Opec's efforts to stabilise oil prices.

Policy

Meanwhile, non-OPEC Oman will peg oil output at current levels of around 565,000 barrels per day for the next five years to help Opec stabilise world prices.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

JAPAN STOCKS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1987

BOMBAY

	PR CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	30.50	30.50	30.25	MODI KALI	--	--	--
ACC	155	160	156.50	GRATON 120	30.50	30.50	30.25	NARMADACHIN	--	--	--
AHDADV	--	--	--	GSFC	87	89	88	DRKAT	23.50	24	24
AMBADVCO	--	--	--	GUJPETRO	23.50	--	--	PRAHAUTO	25	25	25
ANHUA CEM.	11.50	11.25	11.50	GALLITRON	95	95.50	96	RATHNOD CO	25	25	25
ANHUA VLY	--	--	--	HINDALCO	114.50	114	115	RATHNOD CO	88	87.50	88.50
BAJAJ AUTO.	4575	4625	4775	HYD LAMPS	--	--	--	RELAXTE	108	108	113
BAL RAYON	150	152.50	150	IND ORG	24	24.50	25	SPIC	28.50	29.25	29.50
BON DYING	97.50	102	98.50	INDRATON	53	53	52	STO HILLS	205	210	205
BOMBAT STOCK PRICES	--	--	--	INDRATON	182.50	187.50	190	STOMEDICAL	--	--	--
BSE INDEX	434.51	--	435.70	ITC	41	41	39	STEELTUBE	--	--	--
CENTURYSPEC	67.50	65	66.50	ITC CO	--	--	--	TATA PJR	190	185	187.50
COLGATE	194.50	198.75	195	JK 120	--	--	--	TATACHEM	67	66.50	67
DEEPAKFERT	32	32	33	JKSYNTH	60.50	60	60.50	TATAOIL	83	82	82
DHARCENT	--	--	--	L AND Y	78	79	79	TELCO	370	370	365
FICON ORG	--	--	--	MAGNAHARD	--	--	--	UDAIPHONSPN	--	--	--
GARMPOL	78.50	78	79	MAHINDRA	53.50	53	53	VOLTS	305	--	--

FRANKFURT

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST	PR-CLOSE	HITSUB CP	989	976	HITSUB EL	505	500
AEG	194.5	210.6	AJINOMOTO	3190	3130	HITSUB EST	1620	1650	HITSUB HVY	520	524
ALLIANZ VR	1140.0	1215.0	AKAI ELEC	411	426	HITSUB HVY	680	665	AKAI OPT	530	540
BADENWERK	179.5	179.5	ASAMI GAS	1700	1700	HITSUKOSHI	1500	1450	BANK TOKYO	1270	1240
BASF	255.0	263.3	BAYER	267.0	275.8	HICHICON	1190	1250	BRIGESTON	1150	1140
BAYER HYP	322.0	326.0	BAYER VER	316.0	327.0	HIROH CHNT	710	756	CANON	925	928
BBC	280.3	285.1	CHUGAI PHG	1450	1450	NIKKO SEC	1300	1240	CASIO COMP	1140	1110
BFH	320.0	324.0	CITIZEN W	496	490	HIP KKOKAN	266	260	CHUGAI PHG	1850	1850
CHEMIE-VER	461.0	480.0	O-ICHI CO	2730	2660	HIP OIL	1000	1040	CITIZEN W	496	490
COMMERZBZ	215.5	226.0	DAIMER BEN	582.5	609.0	HIP STEEL	362	351	DAIMA SEC	1600	1600
CONTI GUNN	211.0	228.0	DEUTSCHE BNK	396.0	412.9	HIP YUSEN	490	485	EBSA NFG	758	740
DANFER BEV	582.5	609.0	DEUTSCHE BNK	396.0	412.9	HIS MOTOR	725	750	EISAI	2000	1980
DOL	304.0	306.0	DRESDNER B	225.5	238.5	HOKURA SEC	2660	2590	FUJITSU	1110	1120
DUST BABCOCK	156.0	162.0	FAZ INDEX	428.40	439.51	HOMURA SEC	930	900	FUJITSU	1110	1120
GOLDSMITH	230.0	232.0	GOETSCHE BNK	306.0	306.0	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
GUTEHOFF	0	0	HARPERM	372.0	367.0	HONDA SEC	2660	2590	FUJITSU	3030	3000
HOCHEIT AG	255.1	253.9	HESCH	91.0	94.1	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
HORTEN	160.0	164.0	HESCH	160.0	164.0	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
HUSSEL DIL	440.0	450.0	HESCH	160.0	164.0	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
KALI SAL2	124.5	124.0	HITACHI	1150	1130	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
KARSTAD	442.0	459.0	HITACHI	1150	1130	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
KAUHFOP	421.0	433.5	HONDA SEC	820	820	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
KLOECK H	82.1	85.5	ISETAN	1300	1330	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
X CORP	514.0	558.0	KAWASAKI	237	238	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
WEST	130.5	133.0	KAWASAKI	308	291	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
LUFTHANSA	141.0	144.5	KIRIN BREW	1920	1940	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
MANNESEN	105.2	111.5	KOMAYSU	581	590	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
MERCEDES	458.0	477.0	KUBATO LTD	534	536	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
METALLGES	222.0	238.9	KAO SOAP	1730	1710	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
NIKKEI	549.8	584.0	KAWASAKI H	308	291	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
NOKSY NO	35.80	36.50	KAWASAKI S	1920	1940	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
PHILIP KOM	616.0	621.0	KIRIN BREW	1920	1940	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
PORSCHE	428.0	442.0	KOMAYSU	581	590	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
PREUSSAG	117.0	121.0	KUBATO LTD	534	536	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
PWA	171.0	181.0	KYOCERA	5410	5250	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
RHEIN	211.0	216.8	KYOCERA	5410	5250	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
RHEIN P	201.0	205.2	MARUKI	1590	1530	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
RHEINL	236.2	236.2	MARUKI	1590	1530	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
RELMAND	268.0	265.0	MATSUMI	2090	2030	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
SCMERRING	346.0	358.0	MATSUTA EL	2030	2060	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
SEL	280.5	292.0	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
SIEMENS	362.0	375.5	MEIWA EI	2090	2030	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
THYSSEN	104.5	108.6	MATSUTA EL	2030	2060	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TLITAN E	267.7	273.6	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TMERAD	165	165	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TMERAD	216	216	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TMERAD	216	216	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TMERAD	216	216	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820	FUJITSU	3030	3000
TMERAD	216	216	MATSUTA EL	920	911	HONDA SEC	820	820</			

Gold gains**Dollar stumbles to further record lows**

FRANKFURT, Dec 28. (Reuter) — The dollar tumbled today to historic low below 1.60 West German marks and 123 Japanese yen despite central bank intervention and its slide started a retreat in share prices on Wall Street and in Europe.

The dollar was quoted in Asia as low as 1.5870 West German marks. In Europe, it touched a quoted low of 122.75 yen.

At the close of European trading the central banks had managed to lift it to 1.5930 marks and 122.95 yen — but that was well below values last week ahead of the Christmas holiday when it was worth just over 1.62 marks and 126 yen.

Jotted

Today's dollar fall jolted confidence on Wall Street, reversing a three-week pre-Christmas rally in New York stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average of 30 stocks dropped 52 points to 1,947 in the first half-hour after the New York Stock Exchange reopened after the Christmas break.

The dollar fell after currency dealers in Asia again convinced themselves that the United States, in its anxiety to correct a huge trade deficit, would be happy to see its currency con-

tinue to lose value. They decided to sell the dollar to test how low it would be allowed to sink. "We can't tell if the US will support the dollar. That's why the market is trying to test the dollar's bottom," one said.

Central banks of Japan, West Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland all bought dollars, market sources reported.

Joined

The key question was whether the US Federal Reserve Board had joined in. Some European dealers suspected that it had. Some New York sources said that speculation that this was the case had certainly helped steady the dollar.

Traders said the Bank of Japan bought \$200 million to \$300 million during the morning in an attempt to slow the fall of the dollar, which had dropped 9.23 yen since Dec 8.

"In the near future, the dollar is likely to plunge further unless Japan's Central Bank takes measures such as a lowering of interest rates," said Kenji Yokota, managing director of investment advisers' department at Yasuda Trust and Banking Co.

The dollar's nosedive came

less than a week after finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven industrialised nations issued a joint statement recommitting themselves to stabilising foreign exchange rates.

Reaction

But dealers in Milan said the dollar's reaction indicated deep distrust in the measures. Earlier, Japanese dealers had shown cool reaction to the statement, noting it did not specify target zones for the dollar's exchange rates.

In Zurich gold closed at \$490.50 an ounce, up 5.95 from Thursday's close of \$484.55. Silver rose 13 cents to \$6.88 an ounce from \$6.75.

The London bullion markets remained closed.

But others doubted if the Fed had acted. "If the Fed has been in, it has not done a very good job of it," one said.

European dealers said trading was thin, because the London market remained closed until tomorrow, so quite small sales sufficed to move the dollar down.

A sudden dollar drop in Europe's afternoon was variously attributed to a large yen/mark order in the thin market pushing up the mark, and a Japanese investor selling out of

Switzerland.

Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said he expected other central banks to help the dollar in line with last Wednesday's Group of Seven (G-7) statement which reiterated a call for stable currencies.

Document

But President Reagan's chief economic adviser, Beryl Springer, said the document contained no specific agreement to support the dollar.

Stockbrokers in Frankfurt and Paris cited the dollar's weakness for lower share prices in those centres. A cheap dollar crimped earnings on exports to the United States.

But they said business was very thin, with many operators still away for an extended Christmas holiday.

Switchback

The Paris 50-share Bourse indicator ended 3.39 per cent down on the day. Shares also ended weaker in Belgium and the Netherlands where the Amsterdam all-share indicator ended

4.7 per cent down.

Tokyo stocks had a switchback rise on their last half-day of trade in the year. The key Nikkei index fell 600 points only to rebound and close about 30 points higher at 21,564.00.

The movement was largely due to institutions juggling the market around, brokers said. The New Year brigade, which believes a lower market at the end of the old year is a bad omen, finally won out. One broker described the day as unreal.

The Hang Seng Index, the Hong Kong market's prime indicator of blue chips, fell 92.32 points, closing at 2,286.75. Turnover amounted to 866.79 million Hong Kong dollars (\$111.12 million) compared with 797.63 million Hong Kong dollars (\$102.3 million) during Thursday's half-day trading. The market was closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday.

The Manila Stock Exchange index was down 5.22 points from Thursday's close at 796.24.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will be closed Dec 29-Jan 3, while the foreign exchange market will be closed Jan 1-3.

US stock and commodity markets will be closed on Friday in observance of New Year.



A bourse dealer seen in nervous trading following a sharp fall in the dollar fixed at 5.4330, its lowest level against the French franc in six years. Market sources said the Bank of France intervened shortly after the opening when the dollar fell as low as 5.4150 francs. (Reuter radiophoto)

Morocco, EEC hold final talks on new fishing pact

RABAT, Dec 28. (Reuter) — Morocco resumes fisheries talks with the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels tomorrow aware that its relationship with the trading bloc could be strained by failure to produce a new agreement on fishing rights.

The two sides have been negotiating since July, when a four-year pact between Spain and Morocco expired and was extended until December 31.

Failure to reach agreement would mean that 800 Spanish boats, mainly from the Canary Islands, would be excluded from fishing Moroccan waters. An estimated 12,000 Spaniards depend on fishing there for a livelihood.

Upset

It could also upset EEC-Moroccan relations at a time when Rabat is seeking stronger political and economics ties with the 12-member group.

With the two sides apparently still far from agreement, it seemed that the present fishing accord would be given another brief extension to allow time for

more talks.

Spain lost its right to deal directly with Morocco on fishing rights when it joined the EEC last year. The EEC negotiates on behalf of its members and has fishing pacts with 16 other countries.

Pact

Morocco, which has vast territorial waters in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, has not officially disclosed its terms for a new fishing pact.

Diplomats say the EEC has offered a 15-year accord while Rabat insists it should be for four years renewable. The EEC has offered only half the 15 billion Spanish pesetas (\$126 million) which Morocco has demanded in annual dues.

Morocco also wants to limit the tonnage of catches gradually reducing them from 70,000 to 40,000 tons a year.

Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali told the cabinet last week after talks in Brussels that the EEC had agreed that the number of vessels fishing Moroccan waters should be gradually reduced and the boats kept away

Energy talks

AMMAN, Dec 28. (Kuna): Visiting Energy and Oil Minister of Norway Arne Oien met today with Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Hassem Al Khatab.

The discussions between the two ministers tackled ways of how to benefit from Norwegian expertise in oil exploration works in Jordan, sources said.

They discussed energy, economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Dollar tumbles to historic lows

THE US dollar plummeted and hit a record traded low of 1.5870 marks in the Far East, despite last week's Group of Seven statement warning against a further fall.

However intervention by Bank of Japan and Bundesbank helped the currency to recover partly during the afternoon business in Asia. The Bank of Japan intervened twice during the day at 123.50 and 123.55 yen by buying small amounts of dollars.

The market was extremely quiet in volume terms with London closed and many traders away for holidays.

The dollar ended the day in Singapore at 123.60/80 yen compared with its 124.40/90 close in Bahrain overnight, but above the historic low of 123.30 yen established in the morning. In Hong Kong the US unit ended at 1.6005/20 marks compared an early 1.5900/10 and at 123.50/80 yen versus 123.55/65.

Intervention by the Bundesbank lifted the dollar to a high of 1.6045 marks after opening in Frankfurt at 1.6010/20. Some dealers reported that the Bundesbank was also buying dollar during Asian business hours. With the closure of London market, the trading remained quiet and the dollar for most of the time in Europe and dealers noted even small orders were having an exaggerated effect on price movements.

The dollar's renewed weakness pushed up the mark against other currencies, putting the European Monetary System (EMS) joint float under strain.

Sterling opened at 2.977/981 marks in Frankfurt after closing on Wednesday at 2.983/986.

The dollar stood at the following levels during European midday trade:

Stg: 1.8530/50
Dm: 1.6015/25
Fr: 1.2965/75
Yen: 123.25/40

Provided by: Al Kazemi Int'l Exch Co. Kuwait.

S. Arabia won't sell oil at discount

RIYADH, Dec 28. (Reuter): Saudi Arabia will not sell its oil below official Opec prices unless overproduction by other members seriously threatens its market share, a Saudi oil official said today.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has come under pressure to offer discounts or other trade concessions because of weakness in the oil spot market, where prices have fallen below those set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters the kingdom had repeatedly turned down requests for discounts.

"Every day we receive calls from people asking us to be more merciful in our terms. We say no, and they say okay and lift (oil) anyway," the official said.

Quota

He said Saudi production in December would average close to its Opec quota of 4,343 million barrels per day (bpd), showing the kingdom could sell nearly all of its quota at official prices.

But he said Saudi Arabia was determined to preserve its market share and would consider any means to do so if it was threatened by output violations by other Opec states.

"If our production level fell below the quota, we would assess why, and if it was because someone else was overproducing then we would assume the (Opec) agreement is compromised and there is no agreement," he said.

At a meeting in Vienna earlier this month, Opec agreed to extend into the first half of 1988 its 1987 second half production ceiling of 15.06 million bpd, excluding Iraq, and keep prices at \$18 a barrel.

The official said Saudi Arabia had several ways to make its oil more attractive to buyers apart from straight discounts. "But we assume we will not be finding ourselves using such methods," he said.

Bid to boost military, aid outlays**Japan budget to reform finances**

of maintaining 60,000 US troops in the country. The Japanese contribution will rise by 11 per cent or about 12.8 billion yen (\$100 million) to 120.3 billion (about \$1 billion).

Prime Minister Noboru Take-shita will announce further measures to expand Japan's support for the US troops on Jan 1, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Overall military spending will rise about 1 per cent of the Gross National Product for the second year in a row.

The defence budget will increase by 5.2 per cent to 3.7 trillion yen (\$30.6 billion), or 0.103 per cent of GNP.

Criticised

For many years Japan kept defence spending below the 1 per cent limit but lifted the self-imposed limit last year. The move was criticised by some of Japan's Asian neighbours where

the memory of Japanese military expansion during World War II is still fresh.

"I think we have explained in full detail our rationale for eliminating the 1 percent barrier when it was adopted by a cabinet resolution January last year," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The budget includes a down-payment for Aegis missile ship, a new generation of fighter planes and an over-the-horizon radar system to be purchased in part from American companies.

To reduce Japan's reliance on the export economy, the government will continue a policy of increased spending on public works projects to stimulate domestic consumption.

Greater domestic consumption, including purchases of imported products, is one way Japan can reduce its trade surplus with the United States, and collecting an anticipated 9.5 per cent increase in tax revenue from greater economic activity.

Aid

Aid to developing countries will increase by about 6.5 per cent to 700 billion yen (\$55 billion). As in the previous year, 70 per cent of the aid will go to Asian countries and rest will be split between Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

The Japanese government says at the same time it increases the total budget, it will reduce government borrowing by 15.6 percent. This is made possible by selling 1.3 trillion yen (\$10 billion) in government-owned Nippon Telegraph Corp. Stock and collecting an anticipated 9.5 per cent increase in tax revenue from greater economic activity.

Greater domestic consumption, including purchases of imported products, is one way Japan can reduce its trade surplus with the United States, and collecting an anticipated 9.5 per cent increase in tax revenue from greater economic activity.

The new rate applies to all Gulf ports in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE.

Last summer a war risk premium of 0.10 per cent was levied on ships using UAE ports outside the Gulf for the first time after two ships hit mines off Fujairah and Khor Fakhan.

War risk rates for UAE ports within the Gulf were 0.10 per cent.

Turkey starts producing silver

ANKARA, Dec 28. (Reuter): Turkey has opened its first silver mine and expects export earnings of about \$30 million a year, state radio said yesterday.

It said the 100th Year Silver Metal Facilities, owned by the state firm Etibank, would process one million tonnes of ore a year and produce 122 tonnes of pure silver.

Etibank's director-general Suha Nizamoglu was quoted as saying that 102 tonnes would be exported to raise an estimated \$30 million.

Lebanese pound strengthens

BEIRUT, Dec 28. (Reuter): The Lebanese pound strengthened against the US dollar today closing at 450.00/454.00 compared to the previous close at 467.00/469.00. The Central Bank said.

South Korea's foreign exchange holdings to hit all-time high

SEOUL, Dec 28. (AP): Paced by its growing current account surplus, South Korea's foreign exchange holdings are expected to hit an all-time high of \$10 billion by the end of this year, government officials said today.

Foreign exchange holdings include a country's ability to pay overseas.

Officials at the Bank of Korea, the Central Bank, said South Korea's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$9.32 billion at the end of November, up \$880 million from October and \$1.36 billion from a year earlier.

The reserves continued to grow in December and at the current pace, it is expected to hit the \$10 billion level by the end of the year, the officials said.

The officials attributed the swell to ever-growing current account surplus, expected to total \$10 billion by yearend. This year's current account surplus stood at \$8.9 billion.

The current account surplus includes a trade surplus of an estimated \$6 billion, plus invisible trade such as tourism income and unilateral transfers.

The good economic performance is also expected to help the country reduce its external debt from \$44.5 billion at the end of last year to \$35.5 billion by the end of this year, the officials said.

Kuwait Oil Company (KSC) / Getty Oil Company**Joint Operations**

(Kuwait Oil Company and Getty Oil Company) announce the tender for:

CLEANING & ASSOCIATED SERVICES

Experienced contractors wishing to participate in this tender, are invited to collect the Tender Documents from Contracts Administration Office at Joint Operations — Wafra during the official working hours from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. not later than 9:00 am on January 20, 1988, against a non-refundable fees of KD. 75/-

INFOCUS

The world today



A WEEK after a Philippina ferry sank in the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy, a woman continues the mournful task of searching for missing relatives in a coffin-filled sports stadium converted into a temporary morgue. (Reuter radiophoto)



FORMER New Jersey State Senator David Friedland, who had been captured earlier this month on the Maldives Islands, smiles as he arrives at Kennedy Airport from Zurich on Sunday. He faces trial on fraud charges that carry a potential sentence of 150 years in prison. (Reuter radiophoto)



AFTER spending Christmas in jail, Kanak Independence leader Yeiwana Yeiwene gives a press conference after being released yesterday morning in Noumea, New Caledonia. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN Iranian warship stands next to the West German container ship "Norasia Pearl", which belongs to the Norasia Line company, in the southern Gulf yesterday. The Iranian warship haled the vessel and then sent a small boat across to inspect its cargo. Iranians patrol this part of the Gulf to check the passing vessels and sometimes attack them. (Reuter radiophoto)



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (right) met Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock yesterday. Mock, on a ten-day visit to Egypt, on Sunday condemned Israeli action against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (Reuter radiophoto)



A MONEY broker checks the dollar rate at midday yesterday. The dollar traded at 123.60 yen, down sharply from 125.20 yen in Tokyo on Friday. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE Porsche team pose for photographs near their cars in Rains, France on Sunday. The tenth Paris-Dakar race starts Friday, January 1. From left to right: Jean-Pierre Jabouille, Gili Levent, P. Landreau and Jacques Lafitte. Jabouille and Lafitte are former Formula-1 drivers. (Reuter radiophoto)



SWISS boxer Mauro Martelli is held up high after retaining his European welterweight boxing title in Lausanne on Sunday. Martelli defeated challenger and French champion Jean-Marie Touati. (Reuter radiophoto)



YOUNG Palestinians are greeted by relatives before they go on trial in the military court in Gaza yesterday on the second day of trials. The youngsters had been involved in the uprising in the Gaza Strip. (Reuter radiophoto)



WEST GERMAN Anton Fischer jumps into his bobsleigh while Chrisoph Langen is still pushing from the start of two-men bobsleigh World Cup event at the Koenigsee bob course on Sunday. Anton Fischer drove to the second place with his brakeman in the time of 1 min. 40.32 seconds. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN unidentified child waves to Pope John Paul II as he speaks to a group of visitors during a special audience at his summer villa at Castelgandolfo on Sunday. (Reuter radiophoto)



HUDDLED over his cookstove in a driving snowstorm on Sunday a Denver Broncos fan Will Matney continues with his pre-game tailgate party in a near-empty parking lot across from Mile High Stadium. Despite the near blizzard conditions, the Denver Broncos played the San Diego Chargers in the final game of the regular season. (Reuter radiophoto)

What's hot, what's not in 1988

By Karen Timmons

PEOPLE looking back at 1987 couldn't help but be confused. Politicians turned into soap opera stars, evangelism often looked more like hedonism, sex and making a buck on the stock market seemed equally dangerous, the Marines produced a few bad men and suddenly Americans were cheering the Russians on the streets of Washington.

If all this has left you wondering which end is up for the new year, here's United Press International's list of what's in and what's out for 1988

In	Out
Main Street	Wall Street
Glasnost	Reaganomics
Vanwagons	Volvos
Suburban living	City living
Wider ties	Power ties
Cash	Credit
Gary Hart	Gary Hart
Sugar	Nutrasweet
Chicago	Paris
Fountain pens	Felt-tipped pens
Trains	Planes
Walking	Jogging
Poor urban professionals	Young urban professionals
Sunblock	Freckles
Suction lipectomy	Collagen injections
Backaches	Muscle fatigue
Party girls	Feminists
Greenhouse effect	El Nino
Dennis Hopper	Mickey Rourke
Michael Douglas	Michael J. Fox
Flip flops	Reeboks
L.A. Law	Cosby
High heels	Sensible shoes
Azotactic ozone hole	Acid rain
Pears	Kiwifruit
Sexual dysfunction	Marital infidelity
Mini-skirts	Mini-skirts
AIDS screening	Urine tests
Conventional weaponry	SDI
Oliver Stone	Woody Allen
Crime Story	Miami Vice
Seamed stockings	Anklets
French manicures	Wood stoves
Certificates of deposit	Sculpted nails
Long hair	Home Equity loans
Picture	Perms
Tom Selleck	Trivial pursuit
Johnny	Don Johnson
Destiny	Oprah, Phil Nostalgia



In: Gary Hart



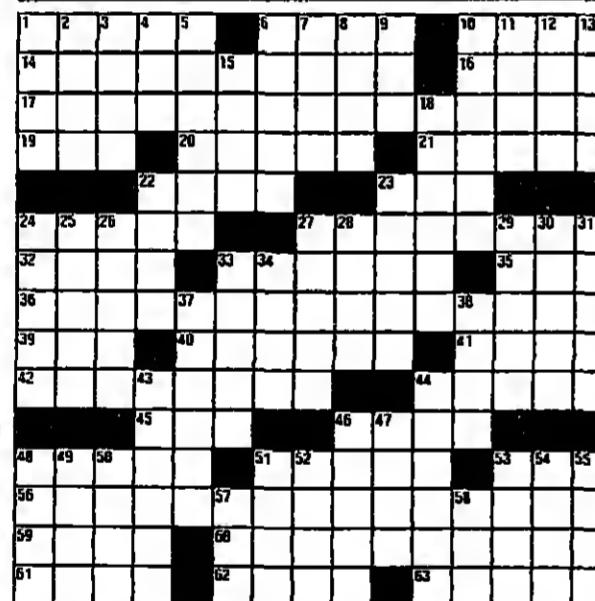
In: Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev



In: Liz Taylor

Glenn Close	Kathleen Turner
Kirstie Alley	Shelley Long
Dabney Coleman	Bruce Willis
Capt. Picard	Capt. Kirk
Butter	Margarine
C. Everett Koop	Shea Hite
Feminine dresses	Dress for success
Bloom county	Doonesbury
Jeopardy	Wheel of fortune
Pat Sajak	Vanna White
Couch potatoes	Fitness freaks
Analog	Digital
Larry King	Paul Harvey
Susan Dey	Cybill Shepherd
Doctors	Lawyers
Mikhail and Raisa	Chuck and Di
Muffins	Croissants
Spalding Gray	Garrison Keillor
Daniel Inouye	Oliver North
Weekend vacations	60-hour work weeks
Common sense	Life in the fast lane
Showy engagement rings	Prenuptial agreements
Mr Potato head	Slinky
Liberals arts degrees	MBAS
US Congress	The President
Summits	Medium-range missiles
Russians	Australians
Michael Jordan	Dr J
Columbia	SMU
Grateful Dead	Run DMC
Accountability	Deniability
Crystals	Astral projection
Fruit Juice Sparklers	Wine coolers
Curves	Starvation
Shirley-Schwarzenegger	Penn-Madonna
Donald Trump	Lee Iacocca
Sunday school	Televangelists
Big screen TV	Personal computers
McGruff	Spuds MacKenzie
CNN	Home shopping network
Anti-lock brakes	Automatic seat belts
Range Rover	Cadillac Allante
Cher	Sigourney Weaver
Lee Hart	Donna Rice
Microwave	Cuisinart
Al Capone	Geraldo Rivera
Liz Taylor	Joan Collins
Cilantro	Basil
Jay Leno	Eddie Murphy
Afghanistan	Nicaragua
Tom Brokaw	Dan Rather
Rat Pack	Brat Pack
Peanut Butter	Sushi
Rudolph Giuliani	Ivan Boesky

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 "Ain't That a
— Fats
Domino
6 Kind of jockey
10 Name for a
Dalmatian
14 A Winter
Olympian
16 Ponce pony
17 With 36 Across,
a man's
complaint
to God
19 Cartoonist
Gardner
20 Nobel reward
21 Edged like a leaf
22 — the east;
and Juliet
23 Mr Sprat's
no-no
24 Michelangelo
subject
27 Steinbeck's
Sweet —
1954
32 Maple tree's
genus
33 3,500,000 sq.
m. of sand
35 E.T.'s ship?
36 Man's
complaint
continues
39 Australian ratite
40 Spookier
41 Polpotri
42 Nurseryman
at times
44 Necessities
45 Classified
ad. wd
46 Autocratic ruler
48 Steps in a
pasture
51 Canary's cousin
53 Oklahoma!
Anne
56 God's responsa
to the man

59 Persia, after
1835
60 Doctor of
distinction
61 — in the
Attic; Hellman
62 Give it —
(attempt)
63 Gets in a hola-
or a pockat
DOWN
1 Child's direction
2 It springs eternal
3 Narrow pass at
a mesa's edge
4 Extinct New
Zealand bird
5 Lid Under —
pyramid
6 E. Browning
7 Actress Bettie
7 Mother of Don
Juan
8 Withered
9 — the Beloved
Country
10 Some are strolled
11 Hall of Samoa's
capital
12 Der
Rosanavalier
baron
13 London gallery
15 Freki and —
Odin's wolves
18 — hand (close)
22 Yesterday, to
Feline
23 Rage
24 Etonian's parent
25 —, All Ye
Faithful
26 Have in
the cage
27 — Finest
Hour Churchill
28 Heeny's
sidekick
29 Swashbuckler's

fights
30 Evil spirit of
Arabic myth
31 Spinning tops
33 Printers'
remarks
34 Ear of grain.
in Essan
35 Ashe, Becker,
Connors et al.
36 Trouper's trip
37 Ashe, Becker,
Connors et al.
38 Some swimmers
40 Crazes
46 Demo follower
48 Knocked by a
knight
49 Novice
50 "Do as —"
51 Ap. bldg.
oversee
52 Oglar
53 Related
54 Secretary
55 Baseball's Mai
and family
57 US org. since
1910
58 Half CGCI

30 Some are strolled
11 Hall of Samoa's
capital
12 Der
Rosanavalier
baron
13 London gallery
15 Freki and —
Odin's wolves
18 — hand (close)
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25 —, All Ye
Faithful
26 Have in
the cage
27 — Finest
Hour Churchill
28 Heeny's
sidekick
29 Swashbuckler's

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ONE MORE FOR THE TROPHY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 7 6 3 2
10 5 2
♦ A K 8 3

WEST

♦ K J 10 6 3
Void
Q 9 8 6
♦ Q 10 7 2

EAST

♦ 9 S 4
J 10 8
A 7 4 3
♦ J 9 6

SOUTH

♦ A 8 7 2
A K 9 5 4
K J
S 4

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass S ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

Some hands appeal to us for the

brilliance of their execution. Others

for their clarity of thought. Some

we find amusing, while on others a

position arises that tickles our fan-

cy. This hand, from a recent pair tournament in New York, is one of the latter.

North-South bid well to a reasonable heart slam. North's jump cue-bid in spades showed a singleton with game-going values in hearts. Two black-suit cue-bids were all that were needed to convince South he would have good play for six hearts.

Since a spade lead would get the defense nowhere, West elected to lead a diamond, solving one of declarer's problems for him. Declarer won the diamond continuation and, since he could claim his slam if trumps broke 2-1, he cashed the ace of hearts.

The 3-0 split presented more than a minor annoyance. Declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and came back to hand with a diamond ruff. Instead of trumping another spade he first cashed the ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club. When he now ruffed a spade in dummy, all hands were reduced to three cards. Dummy was down to the Q-7 of hearts and a club, East held J-10 of trumps and a diamond, and declarer K-9 of hearts and a spade. With the lead on the board, declarer led the club and East could only gnash his teeth helplessly. If he didn't ruff, declarer would ruff low and score the last two tricks with top trumps. But trumping proved no better. Declarer simply overruffed and dummy's trumps took the last two tricks.

Declarer's never-give-up philosophy resulted in a top score and a close win over a good field.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
HILD FILAIN APPLE
ARAL RIPE TRAIN
SAND PAPER TAPE
PEAS DUP DEADENS
TILLY DIRD
LINE'S LAIN DAG
INERT PARTS DRR
PAWS PINCH PLIE
LINS RANDS FAISE
DEP DIRTS LAPSED
ALTE RAKE
APPEARS EMIRATE
TREAT PAPER MDDN
TERSE EVEN ANN
ASSIES CELT NINESS



10/28

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

You should not allow anything to interfere with your independence. You must keep calm when dealing with a rather tempestuous character. Do not place too much reliance on your intuitive powers.

Taurus (April 20 - May 19)

You will do well to do all you can to foster friendships. Do not allow others to pull the wool over your eyes. Make sure you do not break a promise. Be cordial.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should ensure your expenditure does not exceed your income. Do not expect to have all things quite your own way. Make sure you do not do anything that would be injurious to your health.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You will be able to keep your wits about you. Make sure you wear the right clothes for the occasion and the climate. Do not get your priorities out of order. Be amenable.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 21)

You will be better able to take the initiative but you must also get your direction right. You will have something to be pleased about. You have no time to lose. Be correct.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Leave yourself with enough time and leisure for your cultural interests. Others will be more favorably inclined towards you. Do not leave to these others what you should really do for yourself. Be moderate.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should avoid becoming involved in something that does not really concern you. Think a little longer and harder before you decide on what to do. A little more commonsense is what is needed right now. Be fair.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will succeed better than your wildest dreams, but do not allow success to go to your head. You will have something to be pleased about.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will be better able to make progress at work. Your personal life too will take a turn for the better. A small disagreement should not be allowed to degenerate into a major quarrel. Be sensible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should do your level best to maintain and increase harmony with your partner. Make sure you do not get into an argument. If you feel tired do try to get some extra rest. Be consistent.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will succeed better than your wildest dreams, but do not allow success to go to your head. You will have something to be pleased about.

Dear Junior Readers,

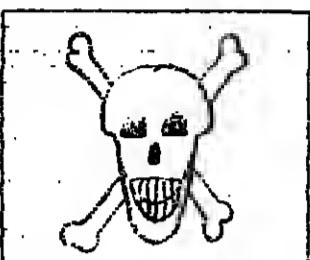
We hope you are enjoying the mystery 'The Curse of the Lost Idol' and that you are helping Annie solve each week's puzzle. Clues and evidence lurk in the words and pictures so read and look at the pictures carefully.

When Eric and the Professor find the lost idol of pure gold they become responsible for protecting it and Annie later becomes innocently involved.

In each Junior Times there is a new clue for you to solve. Follow these clues and help the Professor, Eric and Annie solve the ultimate mystery of the idol's curse.

Aunt Barbara

Doctor, doctor



What's wrong?
I haven't a clue.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a ventriloquist.

You're far too old to have a dummy.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm still at school.
Sit down and I'll give you an examination.

Doctor, doctor, everyone thinks I'm a cricket ball.

How's that?
Not you as well!

Doctor, doctor, my aunt has a sore throat.
Give her this bottle of auntie-septic.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a Swiss roll and custard.

No wonder you're a trifle unwell.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a doorknob.
All right, don't fly off the handle.

Doctor, doctor, I feel like an old sock.

Well, I'll be darned.

Doctor, doctor, I can't stop doing crosswords.

THERE was once an old miller who had neither wife nor children, but only three apprentices, who helped with the work in the mill. 'I am no longer young,' he said to them one day, 'and my sole desire is to sit quietly by the fire. Out you go into the world, and I shall gladly hand over the mill to the boy who brings me the finest horse. In return I shall expect him to look after me until my death.'

Now the youngest of the three, whose name was Jack, was considered rather a stupid fellow by the two older boys. All three left the mill together, but when they were a mile or so from the village the older two tried to chase Jack away, saying: 'We don't want you with us, Jack — you'll never find a horse in a million years!'

But Jack followed along behind, and when night fell they turned into a little cave for shelter. The two older ones waited till Jack was asleep, then off they crept and left him lying there.

When daylight came Jack found himself deserted and he was quite scared, for he had not the least idea where he was. He went out of the cave and scrambled over some boulders into the forest, thinking to himself: 'Here I am alone and without a friend.'

'No,' he replied, 'I have never danced with a cat.' Then take him to bed,' she said to the cats.

in the whole wide world. How on earth can I find a horse?' As he wandered through the trees lost in thought, he met a little spotted cat, who smiled at him.

'Where are you going, Jack?' she asked.

'You won't be able to help me!' he replied ungraciously.

'I know very well what it is that you want,' said the cat. 'You are looking for fine horse! Come and serve me for seven years, and I will give you the most beautiful horse in the world.'

'What a strange cat!' thought Jack. But he agreed to go with her all the same.

She took him to her enchanted castle, where she had cats to wait on her, running nimbly up and down stairs, having a fine merry time. In the evening at dinner-time three of them made music: one played the double-bass and one the violin, while the third blew the trumpet. When the meal was over, the table was carried away and the tabby cat said, 'Come now, Jack, and dance with me.'

'No,' he replied, 'I have never danced with a cat.' Then take him to bed,' she said to the cats.

build me a little house. Here are planks and rafters, and a carpenter's axe, and all the materials and tools you will need — all of silver.'

So Jack built the little silver house. When it was ready he said to her that he had done everything she had told him, and he still had no horse, yet the seven years had already passed.

'Would you like to see my horses, Jack?' asked the cat.

'Yes, please!' said Jack. She opened the doors of



Cats and dogs

1. What is unique about Manx cats, and where did the breed originate?

2. Who was Cerberus?

3. Who described the archcriminal cat in these terms? Macavity's Mystery Cat; he's called the Hidden Paw — for he's the master criminal who can defy the Law. He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair:

For when they reach the scene of crime — Macavity's not there!

4. Who were the respective owners of Diamond, Flush, and Toto?

5. Can you give the origin of the phrase 'not enough room to swing a cat'?

6. According to the US Public Health Service, what are the three breeds of dog that bite the least? The most?

7. What was the name of the fictional cat who suddenly showed a surprising ability to understand and speak the English language, and then proceeded thoroughly to unnerve a proper English houseparty by commenting acidly on the activities and characters of the various houseguests?

8. Weimaraner dogs were first bred in Germany for hunting stags in which peculiar fashion?

9. What are seal-points and blue-points?

10. What have mad dogs and Englishmen in common, according to whom?

Answers: 1. Manx cats, which are practically tailless, came from the Isle of Man. 2. In ancient mythology Cerberus was the many-headed dog who guarded the gates of Hades. 3. T. S. Eliot, in Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. 4. Sir Isaac Newton, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Dorothy, in The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. 5. This is a relief of the age of sail, when sailors were punished by means of a nine-thonged whip, called a 'cat-o'-nine-tails', which left welts like the scrotches of a huge cat. Since there was not enough room to swing a cat' below decks, the punishment was administered topside. 6. Golden retriever and Shetland sheepdog. German police dog (known in Britain as the German shepherd dog or Alsatian), chow and poodle. 7. Tobermory, in the short story of the same name by Saki (H. H. Munro). 8. They were trained to leap at a stag's genitals and strip them off. 9. Types of Siamese cats. Seal-points have a pale fawn coat, while blue-points have a grey one. Both types have darker ears, face, tail, and feet. 10. As Noel Coward said, 'Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun'.

Firsts and lasts

GRAFFITI in the form of words written on public buildings was written before Christ.

In Munich, Germany, there is a brewery that first started selling beer in 1397 — it is still selling it now.

A man called Samuel Morse was an artist who exhibited paintings in London in 1811. He is not known for his painting nowadays, but for the Morse code he invented in 1872.

England's first steam-powered warships was built in 1833.

'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' was the world's first horror film.

In 1801 the first true locomotive ran at Pen-y-darran. It transported seventy people 15 km to the Glamorganshire Canal.

The first crocus flower sprang from the blood of a boy in Greek mythology called 'Crocus'. He was playing a game with hoops with the god Mercury and was killed.

The last wish of the Indian ruler Khanjahan was to be buried in a conical tomb, and to have his hand extending out of it — so that he could continue his favourite pastime of shaking hands even after his death.

President Jimmy Carter was the first American president to be born in a hospital. The others were all born at home.

The first reason why there were 'best men' at weddings was that, in ancient times, a bridegroom set out to 'capture' his bride and always took a strong man along to help carry her off. Now all the best men carries is the wedding ring.

In many cities in Europe the first thing a doctor will prescribe to a patient who has had a stomach operation is champagne. Not all the patients can afford this ideal diet — so they eat beef broth instead!

In the last ten years of the nineteenth century the water supply in London was so limited that some of the more wealthy people's carriages were washed in champagne, wine being so plentiful.

The curse of the lost idol

THE next day, Annie and all other passengers (except for the nameless one) set off for the buried chamber.

Professor Pott led them off the boat along a dusty path into the desert. It was baking hot and Annie longed to stop at one of the refreshment stands beside the road. In the distance she saw some rocky hills and wondered how much further it was. She panted on, passing ruins on her left and an oasis on her right. Further on, they took a left turn and came to a building surrounded by fallen masonry. This was the Temple of the Moon God. Just beyond it was the entrance to the buried chamber.

Annie made the perilous descent down the rope ladder into the buried chamber. She gazed at the smooth, flat, walls covered in paintings. She was surprised by the soft sandy floor. Then she saw the idol — gleaming in the gloomy light. The Professor told everyone to stand back. Dr Boffin pulled out his magnifying glass and was

about to examine the idol

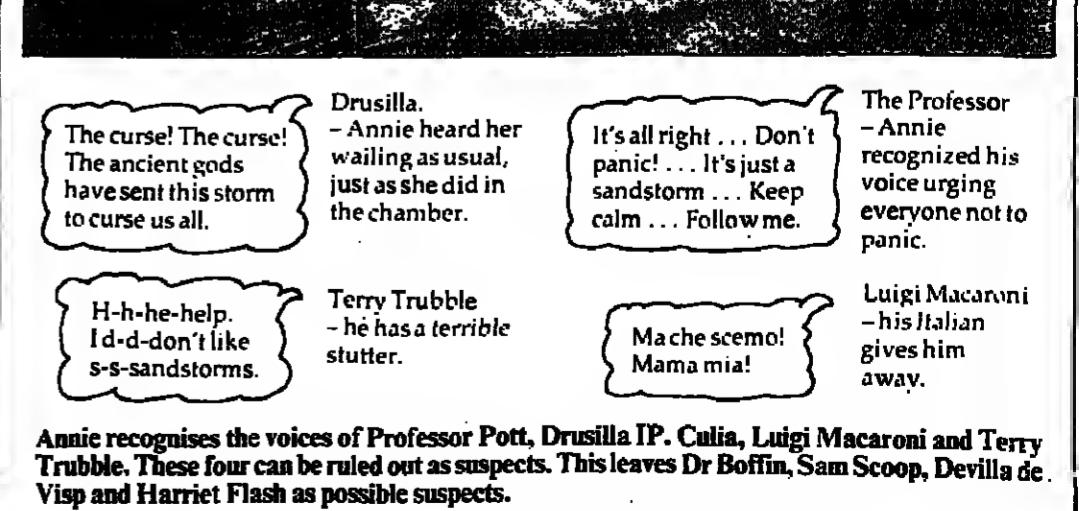
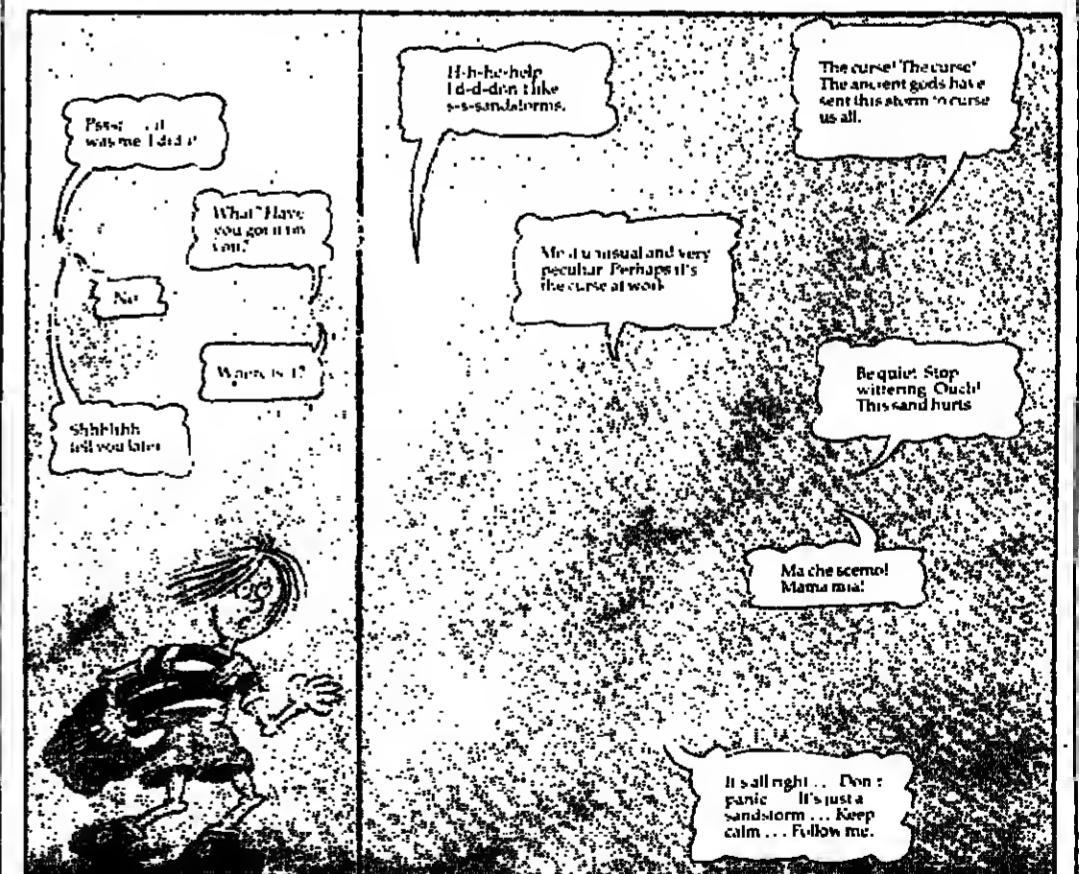
when ... all of a sudden, the chamber was plunged into total darkness. Disembodied screams of shock rang out through the blackness. Annie could see nothing so she listened instead. She heard the Professor's voice and in the background there was a strange, scraping, digging sound. Suddenly, without warning, the light came back. All at once, Annie knew something was wrong ... very wrong. The idol was missing!

With a sickening jolt, Annie remembered the mystery message. Too late, Drusilla broke the awful silence with a wail and panic broke out as everyone rushed for the ladder. Annie thought fast. Was there anything she could do? There was only one thing. Hastily she took a few snaps with her Instamatic camera. Maybe they would contain clues that would lead to the thief.

The thief said no more. Instead she heard the others, all talking at once. The Professor was urging everyone not to panic and Drusilla was wailing as usual. In addition, Annie definitely identified the voices of two other passengers. That left just four passengers as possible suspects.

Whose voice did Annie identify?

Who are the possible suspects?



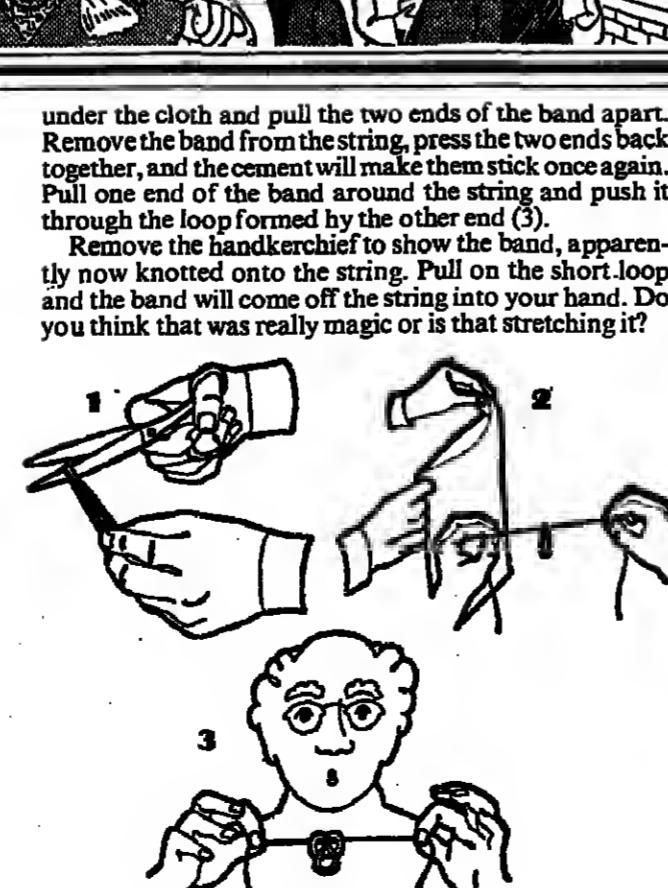
On and off

The illusion: Someone else threads a length of string through a rubber band, and holds both ends of the string very tightly. You cover the band with a handkerchief and make a few mysterious movements under the cloth. When you remove the handkerchief the band is now knotted around the centre of the string. Reaching over, you very gently pull on the band and it comes completely free of the cord.

The preparation: The one reason you are able to do the trick is the one thing your audience never suspects — the rubber band comes apart and goes back together.

Take a rubber band about two to three inches long and one-eighth of an inch wide and cut it through the centre of either end with a sharp pair of scissors (1). Now put a small dab of rubber cement on the cut surface of each end and let it dry. Stick the two ends firmly together so you don't see any crack where it's been cut. Have ready a piece of string about two feet long and a handkerchief and you're all set.

The trick: Hand one end of the string to someone, thread the rubber band onto it, and give the person the other end of the string, too. As he holds the string stretched between his hands, cover it with the handkerchief (2). Now reach



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKE T PLACE

ACCOMMODATION

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FARWANIYA, Kheitan, Kuwait City. Share one room in a 2 bedroom flat near bus route. With a meal for RC Mangalorean bachelor with a Mangalorean or Goan couple/family. Tele. Fernandes 4813465. (AT2-40366-3)

Available

FARWANIYA, (near Holiday Inn). Single room for a working girl to share with a small Indian family. Bus 21, 22, 39, 41. Rent KD30. Tele. 2444654. 8 am - 12 noon. (AT2-40364-3)

KEIFAN, Block 4, House 41, Ibn Hisam St. Accommodation for an Indian R.C. bachelor to share with another bachelor. Rent KD 25. Tele. Louis. 4847165. (AT4-40338-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, Gehind Iran shop. Two rooms with kitchen, water and electricity for family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD 50. 30. Tele. 5611243. (AT1-40354-6)

SHAMIYA, one CAC room, with a meal, for two Indian bachelors to share with another Indian bachelor. Rent KD55. Tele. 5612336. 10am - 12 noon only. (AT4-40335-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq (near Fire Station). Sharing accommodation for a Keralite bachelor. Tele. 2443469 after 2 pm. (AT2-40368-3)

FOR RENT

Furniture

COMPLETE set of quality furniture for a one-bedroom flat. KD. 1000. Tele. 3947564, time 3.30 - 7 pm. (AT3-40312-6)

Al Saeed Cleaning

Washing houses, carpets, villas, buildings and offices. Transportation of luggage, shifting, assembling of furniture and offices with warranty. Tel. 4735507 4717963

FOR RENT

Deluxe flats, In Flintos, Abu Halifa, Mabrooda and Monqat with direct sea view. 3 & 4 bedrooms, with CAC, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool and free maintenance. TERKAIT REAL ESTATE OFFICE 3913189 - 3919884.

Computers

PC XT (Panasonic FX600) 2FD (C60), 640 memory, 8087-2 Math-Cop, graphic card, colour monitor (Panasonic), printer 240 C.P.S., 6 modes (Panasonic), like new. Tele. 2523121, after 3 pm. (AT3-40320-3)

Cars

BMW 520i 83 model, 48000 kms, sports gear shifting, red, in good condition. Tele. 5640172. (AT2-40372-3)

JAGUAR XJ6, 1979, no engine, needs new blue book. KD 150. Tele. 3947564, 7 am - 7pm. (AT3-40312-6)

HYUNDAI (Pony) 1983 model, automatic, radio, cassette, AC, registered upto Nov 1988 in very good condition. KD400. Tele. 5747051. (AT4-40335-1)

MITSUBISHI Colt GLX 1985, manual, (5 speed) hatchback, 4 doors, white, AC, radio, cassette, 47,000 kms, well-maintained. KD 850. Tele. 3989111, ext. 7081, 7 am - 4 pm; 3715354 after 4pm. (AT3-40331-3)

Miscellaneous

YARMOUK, fully furnished studio flat for sale. New rent KD 130, includes electricity, water, swimming pool, maintenance, AC, separate entrance through courtyard and private tele. Tele. 5336310. (AT3-40307-3)

MATHEMATICS, science, from 1st to 7th standard, available. Tele. 3262888 ex 2854, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT4-40325-1)

MATHEMATICS, upto Std VIII, given by a lady in Jabriya (near New Indian School). Tele. 5332276, after 10am. (AT3-40309-3)

TECHNICS electric organ, KD 110. Sinclair computer with software, KD 40, speakers JVC KD 15, 2 table lamps, KD 10, Olympus AF camera, KD 30. Tele. 5620680, 3260803. (AT3-40310-3)

SOFA set, carpets and curtains, 3 childrens' beds with wardrobes, washing machine, cooker, dryer, refrigerator, KD 800. Tele. Mr. Robby. 4743152, 7am - 3pm. 5388647, 4 - 6pm. (AT3-40313-6)

LOST

PASSPORTS, in the name of Neetu Singh Ahluwalia, and Sunny Singh Ahluwalia, Indians. Tele. 4886530 or contact the Indian Embassy. (AT2-40304-3)

PETS

DOGS for sale. 8 weeks old, pedigree, miniature German schnauzers. Grey and silver colour. Good for a family with a home of any size. Tele. 3985946, after 2pm. (AT3-40310-3)

SERVICES

Tuition

PRE-SCHOOL training, for 2 1/2 - 4 years old children, available at Baghdad Street. Tele. 5715623, between 9am - 5pm. (AT2-40305-3)

MATHEMATICS, science, from 1st to 7th standard, available. Tele. 3262888 ex 2854, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT4-40325-1)

MATHEMATICS, upto Std VIII, given by a lady in Jabriya (near New Indian School). Tele. 5332276, after 10am. (AT3-40309-3)

DRIVER, experienced, with an Indian heavy duty driving licence, looking for a suitable job in Kuwait. Tele. Mr. Cheko 5630348. (AT2-40373-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, hard-working, presently working for an English family, seeks live-in employment with European family. Excellent references. Tele. 5622607. (AT4-40347-3)

MAID required for a Kerala family with one child. To live-in Hilton area. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 2546938, after 4-30 pm, or any time on Thursday, Friday. (AT4-40345-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, hard-working, presently working for an English family, seeks live-in employment with European family. Excellent references. Tele. 5622607. (AT4-40345-3)

NANNY required to take care of a baby. To live-in. Must be experienced with children. Speak English fluently and have transferable residence. Tele. 2530000, ext. 415, 10 am - 12 noon, 5 - 7pm. (AT4-40344-3)

MAID required for a Kerala family with one child. To live-in Hilton area. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 2546938, after 4-30 pm, or any time on Thursday, Friday. (AT4-40345-3)

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SPORTS

Porto open four-point gap at top

LISBON, Dec 28. (Reuter): Porto strengthened their Portuguese Soccer League title challenge with an easy 2-0 home win against lowly-placed Penafiel yesterday to go four points clear at the top.

European champions Porto, who won the World Club soccer Championship in Tokyo two weeks ago, have 23 points and a game in hand over nearest rivals Benfica and Boavista, second and third respectively on 19.

Porto were without Algerian international striker Rabah Madjer — he has joined Spain's Valencia for six months before starting a three-year contract with Bayern Munich next July — but effectively settled the outcome in the first half.

The northern team seized the lead through a headed goal by striker Fernando Gomes in the seventh minute and extended their lead with another header, in the 38th minute, from Brazilian Celso.

Defence

Defending champions Benfica again disappointed their fans with a goalless home draw against Braga. The Lisbon side were thwarted by the well-organized defence of Braga, one of the lowest-place teams in the First Division.

Benfica's best chance came in the 50th minute when Swedish striker Mats Magnusson hit the bar.

Boavista beat Espinho 1-0 with a goal by Jorge Andrade in the 31st minute of their home clash to go level on points with Benfica.

Guimaraes, who won 3-0 at home to Farense, are in fourth place, five points behind leaders Porto.

Rush faces hefty fine by Juventus

TURIN, Italy, Dec 28. (Reuter): Welsh international striker Ian Rush, whose indifferent form with Juventus this season has been widely criticised in Italy, could face a hefty fine after he returns to work late for the third time this season.

Officials at the First Division club said Rush, who has scored only three League goals this season, had not returned from his Christmas break as arranged for training yesterday and had not informed the club he would be late.

A club spokesman said Rush appeared for a training session this morning.

Italian sports papers reported that Juventus director Giampiero Boniperti was furious and said he was likely to fine Rush five million lire (\$3,500).

"This time, Rush must justify himself to me," manager Rino Marchesi was quoted as saying. "I want to hear his excuses."

"Rush has an extended holiday. Juventus can't stand it any more," La Gazzetta Dello Sport said in a headline, adding that other players were making jokes about the Welshman, a prolific scorer with his former club Liverpool.

"He's a ghost — he's there but nobody can see him," one unnamed player was quoted as saying, echoing jibes made about Rush's recent weekly match performances.

"Maybe he's on leave again — like he is every Sunday," said another.

Courier brushes aside Cherkasov

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 28. (AP): Top-seeded Jim Courier of the United States dominated the Soviet Union's second-seeded Andrei Cherkasov 6-3, 6-2 yesterday to capture the boys 18 title of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships.

It was the second consecutive year the pair met in the championship round, with the same result.

OILERS CLINCH FINAL AFC WILD-CARD BERTH

49ers and Colts capture division crowns

NEW YORK, Dec 28. (AP): Wide receiver Jerry Rice and three running backs, veteran Eric Dickerson and rookies Alonzo Highsmith and Paul Palmer, set the final NFL playoff spots yesterday.

Rice capped his record-breaking year with two touchdown passes to help lead the San Francisco 49ers in a 48-0 victory over the Los Angeles Rams and the NFC West Division title.

Dickerson rushed for 196 yards and scored twice to lead the Indianapolis Colts to a 24-6 victory over Tampa Bay and the AFC East title.

Performance

Charles White of the Rams won the NFL's individual rushing title with a 95-yard performance against the 49ers that gave him 1,374 yards for the season.

Highsmith scored the first two touchdowns of his NFL career as the Houston Oilers downed Cincinnati 21-17 and clinched the final AFC wild-card berth.

Palmer returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City upset St. Louis 20-17, giving the Denver Broncos the AFC West Division title.

Minnesota got the final NFC wild card when the Dallas Cowboys, with Herschel Walker scoring twice, beat the St. Louis Cardinals 21-16.

In other games yesterday, it was Philadelphia 17, Buffalo 7; Detroit 30, Atlanta 13; New

Nets brush aside Cavaliers

McHale takes Celtics past Kings

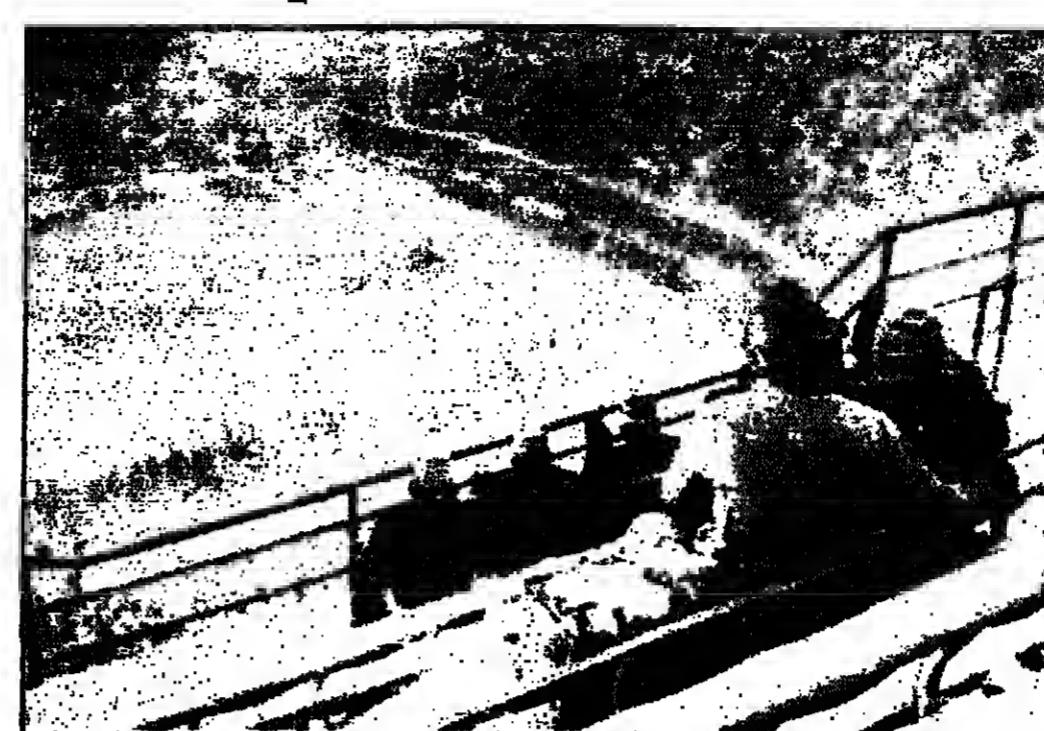
SACRAMENTO, California, Dec 28. (AP): For Kevin McHale, his 16 fourth-quarter points were nothing more than what was expected of him.

"The guards were making great passes in there," said McHale, who finished with 25 points in the Boston Celtics' 114-102 National Basketball Association victory over Sacramento Kings last night. "When they do that, your job as the big man is to simply put it into the hole."

Added

"All I did was that I was supposed to do."

Larry Bird led the Celtics with 35 points as they won their sixth



Huddled together to keep warm, Broncos' fans watch their team battle Chargers during a driving snowstorm in Mile High Stadium. (Reuter radiophoto)

score. The Oilers, 9-6, last made the playoffs in 1980.

Chiefs 41, Seahawks 20

Palmer's 92-yard kickoff return highlighted a big-play day for Kansas City as the Chiefs dropped the Seahawks to 8-6 and forced them onto the road next week as a wild-card entry in the playoffs. Seattle's Steve Largent

caught the 751st pass of his 12-year career in the second quarter to surpass Charlie Jones' all-time NFL record of 750.

Cowboys 21, Cardinals 16

Herschel Walker rushed for 137 yards, scored two touchdowns and played the perfect decoy for Steve Patterson's game-deciding five-yard touchdown

run as Dallas killed St. Louis' playoff hopes. The loss by the Cardinals gave the remaining NFC wild-card spot to the Minnesota Vikings.

Saints 33, Packers 24

Morten Anderson kicked four first-half field goals and Dalton Hilliard sparked a three-touchdown second half as New

Oilers 21, Bengals 17

Highsmith, a contract holdout for the first eight games of the season, caught a 33-yard touch-

down pass from Warren Moon and ran one yard for another

consecutive game. Otis Thorpe led Sacramento with 30 points, while Reggie Theus added 29.

In the only other NBA game yesterday, New Jersey trounced Cleveland 101-83. This evening, Philadelphia were at Phoenix and Denver at Seattle.

Washington, averaging 23.0 points in his last four games after starting the season with an 8.1 norm in his first 21 outings, scored 24 against the Cavaliers. Mike Gminski added 23 points and Ben Coleman 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets. Mark Price led the Cavaliers with 20.

Standings

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	17	11	.580	—
Boston	17	11	.580	4
Philadelphia	13	11	.522	4

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Dallas 16 8 .667 —

Denver 19 9 .649 1

Houston 12 12 .500 4

San Antonio 12 12 .500 4

Utah 12 14 .462 5

Sacramento 7 19 .269 10

Pacific Division

LA Lakers 19 6 .760 —

Portland 16 9 .640 3

Seattle 13 13 .500 6-1/2

LA Clippers 8 15 .348 10

Phoenix 8 15 .348 10

Golden State 4 19 .174 14

Svensson loses in first round

trying. I learned a lesson there," he said.

Svensson said the New Zealand — a brother of 1983 Wimbledon finalist Chris Lewis — had played better than he thought he could.

Lewis, a wild card entry, provided the day's big surprise, although third-seeded Australian John Frawley had to batte before beating US qualifier Robert Green 6-4 6-3 6-6.

First round matches continue tomorrow.

Results

David Lewis (New Zealand) beat Jonas B. Svensson (Sweden) 6-4 6-1; Bruce Derlin (New Zealand) beat Andrew Castle

(Britain) 6-3 2-6 7-5; Andrei Chesnokov (Soviet Union) beat Shigeki Matsuka (Japan) 6-3 7-5; Brod Dyke (Australia) beat Andrei Olkhovik (Soviet Union) 6-1 6-4; Todd Witsken (USA) beat Huuh von Boekel (Netherlands) 4-6 6-2 6-3; Chris Priddy (Canada) beat Glenn Michihata (Canada) 6-2 0-6 6-2; Tim Wilkinson (US) beat Magnus Tideman (US) 6-4 7-6; Menno Oosting (Netherlands) beat Brett Steven (New Zealand) 7-5 6-1; Jeremy Bates (Britain) beat Marc Flur (US) 6-2 3-6 6-4; John Frawley (Australia) beat Robert Green (US) 6-4 3-6 6-6; Stephen Shaw (Britain) beat Steve Guy (New Zealand) 6-4 6-2.

It was the first fatality at Daytona International Speedway during the World Karting Association-sanctioned event.

NHL Games

NEW YORK, Dec 28. (AP): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday: (only games scheduled):

Quebec 5 3 Pittsburgh 3

Buffalo 3 1 St. Louis 3

Si. Louis 4 Boston 1

Minnesota 5 Detroit 4

The Sultan Center

Industrial group has the following immediate vacancies:

HVAC ENGINEER

- B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering

- Minimum 10 years of experience in different types of A/C systems.

- Previous experience as project engineer is a must.

- Valid Kuwait driving licence.

- Valid transferable residence permit.

- Bilingual — Arabic/English.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- B.Sc. Electrical Engineer.

- Minimum 10 years of experience in controls of standby generator frequency converters.

- Previous experience as project engineer is a must.

- Valid Kuwait driving licence.

- Valid transferable residence permit.

- Bilingual — Arabic/English.

LOW VOLTAGE SERVICES FOREMAN

- Diploma in Electrical or Electronics Engineering.

- Minimum 15 years of experience in fire alarm systems, telephone systems + nurse call systems.

- Valid Kuwait driving licence.

- Valid transferable residence permit.

- Bilingual — Arabic/English.

Applicants are requested to apply in writing to:

The Administrative Manager
The Sultan Center
P.O. Box 26567, 13126 Satat

Or phone an 4743155 to arrange an interview.
All applications will be treated confidentially.

Starlite and Unity triumph

STARLITE brushed aside Gulf Bank by seven wickets while Unity were made to struggle for their victory in the Air Lankan Challenge Cup Thursday League matches in Almadi this week.

At the Oval, Gulf Bank after winning the toss and batting first were all out for only 124 in 24 overs. Ismail was the top scorer for the Bankers with 37.

The other batsmen, for Gulf Bank, to reach the double figures were Winston 19, Perwaiz 17, and Ajiaz 14.

For Starlite, Sohail and Iftekhar took two wickets each while Qayyum and Maqbool got one each.

Arshad and Qayyum, the regular Starlite openers, put on 43 runs before the former was out for 34. Iftekhar and Qayyum then put on 57 runs for the second wicket. Qayyum was out for 30 but Iftekhar with 34 and Amjad 16 took Starlite past the victory target in the 21st over.

Openers

In the second game, a depleted Unity side opened their innings through Ejaz and Bader. Both the openers were in good form and put on 102 runs for the first wicket before Bader was out for 36.

Ejaz produced one of his best innings for Unity as he hit three sixes and four fours in his knock of 57. Dawood 24 and Baber 19 helped Unity reach 160 for five in 24 overs.

Deccan Green after losing the first two wickets for only 33 were given a boost by Salim Anwar and Aslam. Both these batsmen threatened to take the game away from Unity.

Salim hit 55 and Aslam 41 but after they

SPORTS**W. Australia
hammer
Sri Lanka**

PERTH, Australia, Dec 28. (Reuter): Mark McPhee pulverised the Sri Lankan bowlers as Western Australia reached 484 for eight on the first day of their two-day cricket match here today.

McPhee scored a dazzling 131 from 129 balls and put on 201 for the first wicket with Greg Shipperd after Western Australia had won the toss and batted.

The run spree provided sweet revenge for the state side after they were beaten by Sri Lanka in a limited-overs match on Saturday.

Caught

McPhee, who was dropped when he had scored nine, took 124 minutes to reach his half century but then unleashed a savage onslaught, his second 50 coming in 42 minutes of 30 deliveries.

He reached from 100 to 131 in a further 13 minutes before being caught on the long-on boundary.

Not only did McPhee slay the bowlers, but he also burst the fielders. He hit Hashan Tillakaratne at short leg a nasty blow to the right arm and a rescuing cover drive severely damaged one of Asanka Gurusinghe's fingers.

Tillakaratne and Gurusinghe spent the afternoon off the field but they hope to be fit to bat tomorrow.

Shipperd was stumped for 64 without any addition to the score but then Tom Moody, Wayne Andrews, Kim Hughes and Todd Breman continued the slaughter which did little to inspire confidence in the Sri Lankan attack five days before they face Australia in the opening match of the World Series Cup.

The most successful bowler was off-spinner Aravinda de Silva, who finished with four for 109 in 19 overs.

Scoreboard

WESTERN AUSTRALIA first innings:
G. Shipperd st De Alwis b P.A. de Silva 131
M. McPhee c sub b P.A. de Silva 131
Moody c Labrooy b P.A. de Silva 57
W. Andrews c Samarasekera b P.A. de Silva 70
K. Hughes c De Alwis b Samarasekera 46

T. Breman not out 71
T. Zocher c Kuruppu b Labrooy .. 1
C. Matthews c Kuruppu b Labrooy 1
Hogan c Amalean b Samarasekera 21
P. Capes not out 6
Extras (b-4 nb-11 w-1) 16
Total (for eight wickets) 484
Fall of wickets: 1-201 2-201 3-318
4-341 5-412 6-425 7-431 8-467.
Bowling: Labrooy 18-1-85-2 (3ab), Ramaniyake 21-0-92-0 (7ab), Amalean 14-2-52-2, A. de Silva 11-0-59-0 (1ab), Samarasekera 13-0-69-2 (1w) P.A. de Silva 19-0-109-4, Ranawana 4-0-14-0.

Climb abandoned

KATMANDU, Nepal, Dec 28. (AP): A four-member team from Tokyo has abandoned its effort to climb the 8,091-metre Mount Annapurna I, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said today. The ministry said the team had climbed to 6,100 metres on Dec 4 but was unable to go higher, and abandoned the climb on Dec 17.

Golf tourney

CORAL GABLES, Florida, Dec 28. (AP): Nick Goetze of Hull, Georgia, fired an opening round 66 yesterday to lead the boys' division and his sister Vicki tied with Sandrine Mendiburu of Paris at 75 to top the girls' division of the Junior Orange Bowl golf tournament.

AUSTRALIAN LOWER ORDER WREST BACK INITIATIVE**Sleep and Dodemaide slam New Zealand**

MELBOURNE, Dec 28. (Reuter): Peter Sleep hit 90 to mastermind a fightback by Australia's lower order and wrest the initiative from a lacklustre New Zealand side on the third day of the third and final Test of the third and final Test.

At stumps today New Zealand were nought for no wicket after one over in their second innings. Australia had built a first innings lead of 40 after being dismissed for 357.

Blows

Sleep received excellent support from Greg Dyer, with 31, and Tony Dodemaide, who was last man out after scoring 50 on his Test debut.

Dodemaide, playing on his home ground, built a record ninth-wicket stand for Australia against New Zealand of 61 with Craig McDermott, who struck several hurly blows before being bowled by Danny Morrison for 33.

After yesterday's pyrotechnics from Richard Hadlee, the performance of the New Zealand bowlers was uninspiring. They were not helped by a lack of urgency in the field from a side needing to win this match to square the series.

Sleep picked up the wicket of Sleep, plumb lbw, to register his 31st five-wicket haul in Test



Hadlee appeals for an lbw decision against Sleep. (Reuter radiophoto)

cricket and put him just five wickets behind the most successful bowler in Test history, England's Ian Botham, who has 373 scalps.

But the great paceman never really motored and captain Jeff Crowe quickly seemed to run out of ideas, often relying on 37-year-old Ewen Chatfield who, in 30 overs, never looked remotely like taking his first wicket of the series.

Dyer, unmoved by the con-

troversy surrounding his dismissal of Andrew Jones, reached 21 before being smartly run out.

Off-spinner Bracewell retrieved a straight drive off his own bowling and threw it to wicketkeeper Ian Smith. Dyer slipped while trying to turn and could not make his ground.

Sleep reached his third Test 50 and highest Test score of 65 in the second session while Dodemaide grew in confidence as the shine



Dodemaide evades a bouncer from Danny Morrison. (Reuter radiophoto)

left the second new ball.

The two had put on 80 when

Sleep, who hit 62 in the second

Test, was dismissed following Hadlee's return to the attack.

Dodemaide played second fiddle to McDermott and was lucky to survive a clear stumping chance when just short of his 50, one of the many errors committed by the New Zealanders.

However, Smith soon made up for it with a lunging catch to

dismiss the Victorian all-rounder.

Hadlee finished with five for 109 off 44 overs. The previous ninth-wicket record was set by Rod Marsh and Len Pascoe in Perth in 1980/81.

Scoreboard
NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 170 for five)
J. Wright 99, M. Crowe 82 C. McDermott five for 97, M. Whitney four for 92.

AUSTRALIA first innings (overnight 170 for five)
D. Boon lbw b Hadlee 10

G. Marsh c sub Rutherford b Hadlee 13

J. Jones c Smith b Hadlee 4

A. Border c J. Crowe b Bracewell 31

M. Veletta lbw b Hadlee 31

P. Sleep lbw b Hadlee 90

G. Dyer run out 21

A. Dodemaide c Smith b Morrison 50

C. McDermott b Morrison 33

M. Whitney not out 0

Extras (lb-8 nb-11) 19

Total (lb-8 nb-11) 357

Fall of wickets: 1-24 2-30 3-31 4-78 5-121 6-170 7-213 8-293 9-354.

Bowling: Hadlee 4-11-109-5 (Sub). Morrison 27-4-53-2 (Sub). Bracewell 30-10-65-0, Bracewell 37-8-62, Patel 12-6-23-0.

NEW ZEALAND second innings

P. Horne not out 0

J. Wright not out 0

Total (no wicket) 0

Bowling to date: McDermott 11-0-0

Kifco rout Bright Star for final

KIFCO reached the final of the Al Arab Cricket Trophy with a six-wicket victory over Bright Star at the KCL ground on Friday.

Bright Star elected to bat first and they put on 161 runs for the loss of eight wickets. Only Salim (38) and Nadeem (30) could face the Kifco bowlers with any confidence.

For Kifco, Shahid Pervez had three wickets for 28 while Zahid got two for 23 and Rafi fat two for 33.

Kifco started their innings on a solid note through Nasir and Zahid hit 55 and 49 runs respectively. Azam and Aqeed then took the score to 143 before the latter was out for 17.

Kifco reached the target for the loss of only one more wicket in the 27th over. They will now meet Evergreen in the final on Jan 4, 1988.

The tournament is being organised by the Kuwait Cricket League.

SPORTS BRITAIN**World Cup**

MUNICH, West Germany, Dec 28, (AP): West German organisers today postponed a Nordic combined World Cup ski competition and said that three Alpine World Cup events may be cancelled due to lack of snow. The Nordic combined event in Schonach, originally scheduled for Jan 2-3 was postponed until Jan 5-6, weather permitting.

Grand National

CHEPSTOW, Wales, Dec 28, (AP): Playschool, a New Zealand bred gelding ridden by Paul Nicholls, held off a challenge from Rhyme 'o Reason to win the £25,000 (\$45,000) Welsh Grand National today.

Canada win

MOSCOW, Dec 28, (AP): Adam Graves and Theoren Fleury scored less than two minutes apart in the third period to take Canada to 4-2 victory over Czechoslovakia today at the World Junior Hockey Championships.

Jahangir and Qamar to play in Kuwait

Jahangir:



Jahangir: top player

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Falcon edge past CCK

FALCON Cricket Club defeated Cricket Club of Kuwait (CCK) by three wickets in a match of the Brud Trophy at the EPL ground on Friday.

Battling first CCK were all out for 157 in 34.4 overs. Raees with 52, Riaz 22 and Rifaal 25 were the main scorers.

Heading

For Falcon, Amin took five wickets for only 18 runs. His nagging line and length never allowed the batsmen to settle down. Skipper Zahid Butt and all-rounder Ayub also bowled well and took two wickets each.

Falcon, needing to score just under four runs per over, were



Mark Falco of QPR (right) slams the ball past Oxford's Billy Whitehurst. (Reuter radiophoto)

Top player

PARIS, Dec 28. (AP): Ruud Gullit of the Netherlands was named the player of the year.

European soccer player today in a poll conducted by France Football, a weekly soccer magazine.

Gullit, a striker for Milan AC in the Italian League, becomes the second Dutch player to win the honour three times in the early 1970's. Last year, the Soviet Union's Igor Belanov was first in the voting by 27 journalists throughout Europe.

Gullit played for PSV Eindhoven last year before transferring to the Italian club. He received 105 points in the voting.

Standings

English League soccer table after matches played today: (league - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Division One

Liverpool 21 16 5 0 51 11 53

Notts Forest 20 13 4 3 44 16 43

Arsenal 22 12 4 6 43 20 40

Manchester U. 21 11 5 1 37 18 38

Bolton 22 10 7 5 32 15 37

Q.P.R. 22 10 6 6 27 27 36

Wimbledon 22 9 7 6 31 25 34

Chelsea 22 8 5 9 31 36 29

Leeds 21 8 4 9 27 25 29

Division Two

Middlesbrough 24 14 7 5 36 17 49

Bradford 24 14 6 6 41 29 48

Aston Villa 26 12 10 4 37 23 46